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L.A. ENERGY MINISTERS, OFFICIALS TO MEET IN CHILE

FL010148 Bridgetown CANA in English 0024 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 29 (CANA) -- Energy ministers and officials from Latin America will meet in Santiago, Chile, for roundtable talks from tomorrow to Saturday, the Port-of-Spain-based United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean area said today. A statement from the centre said that talks will centre on global energy issues and their relation to energy policies and options in Latin America.

According to the statement, the meeting, which was organised by the North-South Energy Roundtable in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), will discuss possibilities for enhancing global and regional cooperation in energy development. It will also consider "appropriate energy policies for Latin America from a global and development perspective."

Themes for discussion at the three-day conference will include: The role of energy in North-South relations, Latin American perspectives on energy, mobilising resources for energy exploration and development in Latin America, and energy strategies for Latin America in the North-South context.

Participants at the roundtable talks will include energy ministers and senior officials from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, and Uruguay.

BELIZE PAPER ON UNESCO-BACKED ALASEI NEWS AGENCY

FL241914 Belize City SUNDAY TIMES in English 19 Feb 84 p 7

[By Desmond Avery]

[Text] ALASEI, Agencia Latinoamericana de Servicios Especiales de Informacion, proposes an alternative to media dependence.

The foreign press arrived in Latin America 400 years ago, according to one version of the story, and has been there ever since. It was in the form of a flatbed printing press owned and operated in Mexico City by Giovanni Paoli from Italy. Today Latin America and the Caribbean are linked to the world's information network through high technology systems, with names like Multiplex, Telenet, and Italcable; but they depend on the transnational news agencies for coverage of their own region. ALASEI will provide a feature service on matters of special concern to the region, and a daily news service. In doing this it is not trying to supplant the international giants but to supplement their service with coverage guided by other points of view, other values, other interests more likely to coincide with those of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The decision and the technological capacity to implement this idea are new, but not the idea itself. A service of the kind was discussed as long ago as 1925, at the first Pan American meeting of journalists in Washington. Several partial experiments with developing alternative news exchange systems were tried, most notably Accion de Sistemas Nacionales de Informacion (ASIN) which now links 14 countries in the region through national news agencies.

But the detailed and feasible plan for comprehensive coverage through a new news agency dates back only to July 1976, when the First Intergovernmental Conference on Communication Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Costa Rica, under the auspices of UNESCO. The conference unanimously recommended to the Member States "the establishment of a Latin American and Caribbean news agency, or a consortium of agencies, in the region, whose principles with respect to programmes, ownership, use, and other aspects of organization and operation shall be determined by mutual agreement between the countries that wish to join the combine."

An Instrument for Access

As a result of this, UNESCO commissioned a detailed study to be made on the possible characteristics and operating modes of such a service. The Project for the Creation of the Latin American Special Information Services -- ALASEI -- was presented to a group of top-ranking media executives and experts who gathered in San Jose, Costa Rica, in May 1979, to discuss the plan. The conclusion of this group was that the report was an outstandingly original document in that, besides proposing innovations that had not yet been given consideration in other regions of the world, it opened up the prospect of mass communication to all the representative sectors, thereby providing an effective instrument for access to and participation in the region's social and communication processes. It was now a matter of implementing the decision.

The Sistema Economico Latinoamericano (SELA) was approached by the governments of Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, Costa Rica, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Eucador to make the necessary preparation. SELA, which is the major organization in the region concerned with economic development, responded by forming an Action Committee for the establishment of ALASEI. The Committee is based in Panama and the countries represented by its members are Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela. Its Executive Secretary is Mr German Carnero Roque, who was UNESCO's Regional Communication Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean until taking this post on an official leave of absence. The Action Committee began its work in 1981 and will be replaced by a permanent administrative body. The agency opened last October.

By 1986, ALASEI should consist of 28 bureaus exchanging news through a central pool. These will be opened at the rate of about ten a year in various countries. Also foreseen is a possible agreement with the Caribbean News Agency (CANA) for the exchange of news and a link with the United Nations in New York.

What kind of information will travel on the ALASEI wire? The action committee offers the following guidelines for the gathering and treatment of news:

(1) To attach greater value to the permanent rather than the momentary; the momentous rather than the commonplace, temporary or transient;

(2) To stress dynamic social processes, as opposed to the static treatment of isolated and incidential events;

(3) To establish a socially dynamic relationship between the national and the regional, viewing one level in terms of the other without assigning a higher status to either;

(4) To assess what is of immediate importance in terms of common regional objectives.

The three main themes of the feature service wll be development, integration, and cultural identity. Development refers not only to increased production but in general to all the factors involved in human fulfillment at every level of society. Integration covers the realm of regional and international cooperation, and cultural identity includes both the diversity and the common elements of Latin American culture.

A market for in-depth treatment on topics of this kind will be sought not only in the mass media but also among professional and academic groups involved in such matters. Such coverage should not be seen as a bid to compete with the major Western wire services, but rather as an attempt to fill some of the gaps left by their choice of subjects.

Much of the high technology needed for the ALASEI system is already in place. All the Latin American countries can now communicate automatically with any other region in the world belonging to the INTELSAT system, which has 106 member countries. Cuba is also connected to the INTERSPUTNIK system of the socialist area. A large part of the technology involved in operating ALASEI consists in interconnecting scattered systems that are already being developed by government and business activities. Argentina, Barbados, Chile, and Mexico are already using "packet switching," an electronic device that divides the message into small units or "packets" which automatically and simultaneously select the most favourable transmission channels available.

Given the development of these facilities, the major costs of establishing the news agency over a five-year period will be in forming and maintaining a network of highly competent staff to man the bureaux, estimated at almost $7 million. The other costs involve establishing a fully automated co-ordination centre, opening 28 offices, and paying telecommunication tariffs, all of which adds up to another $3 million.

The plan is for this to be covered in the first two years by contributions and investments made by international, regional, and national co-operation. In the third year, the sale of news and special information services should begin to share a significant part of the cost, so that by the end of the fifth year the operation could be self-financing. The possibility of giving ALASEI a flexible, mixed capital structure is being explored, to avoid over-dependence on any one source and ensure a pluralistic approach. So far, financing has been received from UNESCO's IPDC [International Program for the Development of Communications] ($170,000). Member States of the Action Committee, and other sources. The budget for the first year is $900,000.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON ARRESTS, DEBTS, FALKLANDS

LD291121 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Hector Arenas dispatch from Madrid's Barajos Airport]

[Text] For the first time a high-ranking representative of the constitutional Argentine Government of President Alfonsin has arrived in Madrid. Minister of Foreign Relations Dante Caputo is on his way to Mexico and will have an informal meeting with his Spanish counterpart, Fernando Moran. Here at Barajas Airport, the Argentine Foreign Minister said that there is no danger of revenge and persecution in the search for those responsible for the missing persons in Argentina, including some Spaniards. He added that the arrest and indictment of former President Galtieri and the members of the three military juntas do not constitute a threat by the democratic government to turn back the political clock. In this respect he said:

[Begin Caputo recording] No, the problem of stability is exactly the reverse. That is to say, if the democratic government did not do what it is doing there would indeed be a (?time bomb). (?We are very) aware of the fact that to deny the reality of what has happened would be the best path to self-destruction for democracy and the Armed Forces, not only for the civilian power but also for the Armed Forces themselves. [end recording]

With regard to the problems facing President Alfonsin after 100 days in office, Foreign Minister Caputo said that the main problems are the restoration of civilian power, the restructuring of the unions, and the abolition of groups devoted to financial speculation. In conclusion, the Argentine Foreign Minister, who is passing through Madrid, said that Argentina will pay its foreign debts, but not with intolerable impositions. He also said that there is an initiative on negotiations with London for sovereignty over the Malvinas. He added that the only similarity between this problem and Gibraltar is that both Spain and Argentina are dealing with the same interlocutor.

REPORTAGE ON CASE OF AIR FORCE BRIGADIER SIMARI

Case Still Being Analyzed

PY281229 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1905 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (NA) -- Official sources have said that the commander of Air Force training, Brigadier Alberto Simari, has not been punished, but that the case is still being analyzed by Minister Raul Borras. This seems to prove that the crisis sparked by the incident between Brigadier Simari and General Fernandez Torres has not yet subsided.

The incident between the Joint Staff chief, Gen Torres, and Brigadier Simari occurred last Thursday, and it had a harsh tone, including remarks that prompted Gen Torres to ask Defense Minister Borras to punish Brigadier Simari. Before the meeting in which the main lines of the Armed Forces reorganization were to be presented, Brigadier Simari questioned Gen Torres on some aspects of the reorganization, particularly some attributions the Joint Staff has recently taken upon itself. Brigadier Simari is said to have objected to the fact that the organ headed by Gen Torres adopted resolutions regarding the geographic distribution of military units and the refurbishing of equipment, resolutions that should be directly adopted by the defense minister.

Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier Teodoro Waldner initially is said to have sided with his subordinate, offering to retire if Simari were retired. The same attitude is said to have been adopted by the Air Force's second highest ranking officer, Brigadier Ernesto Horacio Crespo. The problem reached such a pitch that President Alfonsin had to be consulted. The president decided that Simari be given a lesser punishment than the retirement requested by Gen Torres.

While he was Air Force secretary general, there was a lot of friction between Simari and other chiefs of the Army and Navy during the last stages of the National Reorganization Process.

After the Malvinas war, Simari frequently voiced his view that the performance of the Air Force provided the strongest argument to grant that force a decisive role in national defense programs. Thus Simari has been questioning the maintenance of naval air forces based on aircraft carriers as well as of large army fighting units.

He has been proposing the creation of a rapid deployment force similar to that of the United States, a force made up entirely of professionals with a strong air component.

Simari Requests Retirement

PY290005 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2201 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Feb (TELAM) -- This afternoon government sources reported that Brigadier Alberto Simari, commander of Air Force training, today submitted a request for retirement and that the Defense Ministry has accepted it. The retirement of this Air Force officer puts an end to a number of unconfirmed reports about an alleged proposal made by Simari last Thursday to Air Force Commander General Waldner concerning the reorganization of the Air Force.

Simari Pays Tribute to Heroes

PY292118 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1918 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 29 Feb (NA) -- Brigadier Alberto Simari, the commander of Air Force training, today sent a telegram to his comrades in arms after submitting a request for retirement after a disagreement with the defense minister and the Joint Staff over the operational reorganization of the Armed Forces and over Air Force budget cuts. It has been learned that Simari will be replaced by Brigadier Arcelio Oscar Gonzales.

The telegram sent by Simari reads: "As a saying that is very dear to Western thought and culture goes, I will say that it has been a good fight. I ended my career, and I am confident and convinced that the Air Force shall occupy a place of privilege, a place that Argentines assign to those who, during serious national crises, are capable of defending the dignity of the Republic with honor and generosity.

"Let this homage to those who gave everything without hesitation in defense of our sovereignty be my last act as an officer on active duty."

TROCCOLI MEETS WITH JUSTICIALIST GOVERNORS

PY262210 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Feb 84 p 1

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) Tucuman -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli warned that "the extreme economic right and the extreme political left are trying to undermine the legitimacy of our governing policies," but termed "absurd and ridiculous" speculation on the success of such destabilization plots. Troccoli said if necessary the nation would "fight to the end" in defence of democracy. He was in Tucuman yesterday to meet with six Justicialist governors from the northwest.

A statement issued after the meeting said the national government and those of the six northwestern provinces would initiate joint action in order to improve provincial finances and that the Federal Treasury would step in to cover budget deficits. Troccoli added that "we're in the most critical stage of the nation's recovery" as the financial conditions faced by the Radical administration are "infinitely more critical than what could have been expected" after the change of governments. Troccoli's somber tone with respect to the nation's finances was taken as a message to the provinces that their immediate demands of the central government might not be met in the short run.

For their part, Governors Ramon Saadi (Catamarca), Carlos Snopek (Jujuy), Roberto Romero (Salta), Carlos Juarez (Santiago del Estero), Fernando Riera (Tucuman), and Carlos Menem (La Rioja) demanded that the government produce "concrete actions and not just words." Saadi added that if no "solid response" to the demands made yesterday are provided, "it will be useless to continue with these types of meetings" and threatened to resign unless the Catamarca Government is granted immediate federal funds to pay provincial employees.

The governor's demands center around the reestablishment of the "coparticipation system" introduced in 1974 and which theoretically provided provinces with 48.5 percent of central government revenues. Troccoli promised that a government bill dealing with the system would be sent to Congress "within 30 days."

TROCCOLI RULES OUT POSSIBLE DESTABILIZATION

PY271832 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2015 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Cafayate (Salta), 25 Feb (TELAM) -- Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli today denied rumors on a possible destabilization by the military because the Armed Forces have returned to their specific functions. He stated that they triggered a painful experience which they surely will not repeat.

I believe there is no need for a reconciliation with the Justicialist Party, because there are no traces of a confrontation, which ended with the debate over the law on union reorganization. He minimized the incidents that took place in the Chamber of Deputies, where reports on disagreements have been exaggerated. We must not forget that Congress is a place of confrontation and not a girls' school, Troccoli stated during a press conference he granted at Cafayate City Hall, where this morning he arrived from Tucuman to preside over the meetings of the Bermejo Regional Commission (COREBE), which began here today.

Troccoli stated that the Secretariat for State Intelligence [SIDE] is being reorganized by civilians to make it fulfill its specific function. It must stop being a Gestapo and become the intelligence service the country needs to maintain its domestic and foreign security. The changes in SIDE will be in keeping with democratic ideas. Its offices in all provinces will be identified just as they are in Buenos Aires. There will be no more room for clandestine action or for Argentines watching Argentines, Troccoli stated.

ECONOMY MINISTER ON SALARY, UTILITY RATE HIKES

PY292126 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Economy Minister Bernando Grinspun today announced that the same economic variables that were implemented in February will also be applied in March. Grinspun said that the salaries will be increased by 11 percent and that the utility company rates will be increased by 10 percent, on the average. He added that the interest rates charged to borrowers and those paid to depositors will be disclosed tonight by the Central Bank. These announcements were made during a press conference held shortly after the 2-hour socioeconomic team's meeting ended.

VIDELA, FORMER ECONOMY MINISTER, OTHERS CHARGED

PY292239 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Dr Ricardo Molinas, state prosecutor for administrative affairs, has filed criminal charges against former government officials. Molinas is acting against former de facto President Jorge Rafael Videla, former Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz, former Secretary for Economic Coordination and Planning Guillermo Walter Klein, and officials of the National Development Bank in connection with the purchase of AUSTRAL airlines by the Argentine state.

This charge is the result of investigations conducted by the office of the state prosecutor for administrative affairs on alleged irregularities incurred in the purchase of the enterprise. Molinas understands that the crime of abuse of authority, a crime which is established and punished under Article 48 of the Penal Code, was committed through the issuance of Decrees 1,922 in 1980 and 1,923 and 1,938 in 1981.

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF FRG, FRENCH DELEGATIONS

PY291700 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The FRG congressional delegation that is visiting Argentina this morning visited Congress. At 1530, the delegation will meet with the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo at their main offices. At 2000, it will participate in a round of information meetings on nuclear energy and other sources of energy which, as of today, will be held every Wednesday at La Republica Square.

The French congressmen who are also visiting the country will leave this afternoon. At 1900, the delegation will hold a press conference at the VIP room of Ezeiza International Airport.

MEXICANS ARRIVE TO PREPARE PRESIDENT'S TRIP

PY292322 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] An official delegation of the Mexican Government has arrived in Argentina to coordinate Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado's upcoming visit to Argentina. The date for De la Madrid's trip, scheduled during President Alfonsin's stay in Caracas for Jaime Lusinchi's inauguration, has not yet been determined. The Mexican delegation, headed by former Ambassador to Argentina Jaoquin Bernal, who is currently the protocol director, was met by Argentine protocol director Enrique Quintana. The delegation also includes officials from several agencies, and its goal is to make the necessary preparations for De la Madrid's coming visit to Buenos Aires. To this end, they will meet with Foreign Ministry officials.

REPORTS ON FORD LOCKOUT, OTHER LABOR ACTIONS

PY291800 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Feb 84 p 7

[Excerpt] (DYN-NA) -- Some 4,800 auto workers were locked out by Ford Motor Company yesterday afternoon, after a day of renewed two-hour strikes by the workers in demand of 26-percent wage hikes. The Labour Ministry urged both workers and the Ford Administration to immediately end hostilities.

Other strike action continued at the Furlotti winery, where 800 workers for the second day in a row paralyzed all activity in demand of job stability. In Santa Fe Province, a general police strike was due to begin today, with one anonymous Rosario group threatening to reveal the names of officers involved in past human rights abuses unless policemen are granted pay hikes.

Auto Workers' Union (SMATA) leaders charged Ford with "threatening and intimidating" workers during yesterday's shift. Towards evening the administration "closed the mess halls in all sections, cut electric power, said the eight hours worked would not be paid, and took away all tools and workers' time cards," according to SMATA members.

Workers yesterday decided to resume the two-hour stoppages, which were suspended last week after having gone on for a month, when the administration refused a 26-percent wage hike, in addition to the government's 11 percent raise for February, demanded by SMATA. Workers had previously sought a 100 percent increase. Ford had offered a 9.8-percent hike.

The Labour Ministry called for a meeting with SMATA and Ford representatives today, setting as a precondition that both sides cease their respective measures.

UNIDENTIFIED PEOPLE ATTACK JUDGE'S HOME

PY271815 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The home of Judge Lucio Somoza was attacked this morning, police sources have reported. The attack was later confirmed by Judge Somoza.

The incident occurred at 0300 when several armed individuals fired at the judge's home, located at milestone 40 of road No 8 in Del Viso, Buenos Aires Province. The unidentified attackers were occupying bus No 13 of line 333. A short shoot-out occurred when Somoza's guards repelled the attack. The attackers were able to escape, but one of them was reportedly wounded. No victims were reported.

Lucio Somoza confirmed the attack after he arrived at the Justice Ministry, but he dismissed the possibility that it could be part of an intimidation campaign. He said that after he got to his office he would talk with the on-call mobile police unit of San Martin to learn more about the incident. Somoza said that he knows very little about the incident because he was sleeping when it occurred and it was all over when he left home.

SAPORITI MANAGER SAYS NOT PART OF SIDE

PY251631 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1114 GMT 25 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Feb (NA) -- Colonel Manuel Savio, retired, general manager of the news agency SAPORITI, has classified as "unreliable" the press reports saying that the news agency is a subsidiary of the Secretariat for State Intelligence (SIDE) and that it will be closed.

A brief declaration signed by Savio, which was distributed to SAPORITI's personnel, stated that "the responsibility for the report falls on those who disseminated it." Radical Deputy Leopoldo Moreau had told a SAPORITI delegation that there was a "political" decision to close SAPORITI because it belonged to the SIDE and it was "working at a loss."

The SAPORITI personnel today held a meeting that was attended by members of the transitory commission of the Buenos Aires press union. The participants in the meeting agreed to request the necessary interviews to obtain a categorical official statement on the agency's fate. A delegation of the Press Workers Front has expressed its support of the SAPORITI employees.

CITIES ISOLATED, THOUSANDS DISPLACED BY FLOODS

PY291510 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2023 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Santa Fe, 28 Feb (DYN) -- There are a total of 3,000 evacuees in the northeastern region of Santa Fe Province, where hard rainfalls have caused floods in several towns this week. The critical situation led Governor Jose Vernet to severely criticize what he termed the "scarce solidarity" with which national officials have responded to the demands made by those provinces that are usually affected by devastating floods.

Rainfall has flooded up to 80 percent of the downtown area of the town of Ceres, which is located on the border with Santiago del Estero Province, and is inhabited by 120,000 persons. About 500,000 persons were lodged in local provincial schools while a similar number of persons were lodged in the homes of relatives. In the rural area, there are 35,000 hectares that are flooded, and local officials have requested that blankets, clothes, and staples be sent to meet the needs of those affected.

South of Ceres, at the edge of national highway No 34, which serves as a retaining wall for the mass of water that is gradually expanding, the towns of Hercilia, La Rubia, and Arrufo are also flooded. The town of Ambrosetti, located east of these towns, is 70 percent underwater, and it has been learned that large masses of water are advancing on the town from the west. This has forced the authorities to close the access roads in the area and, as a result of this decision, there are several towns that are virtually isolated. The situation in Monte Fiore has also deteriorated. A municipal hall official sent a telegram to the civil defense board noting that the situation is "desperate."

BRIEFS

REPRESENTATIVE TO ALADI -- Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (DYN) -- Leopoldo Tettamanti, a Justicialist diplomat, on 17 February was appointed as Argentine representative to the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0020 GMT 18 Feb 84 PY]

MIR MEMBER INSTALLED AS NEW INDUSTRY MINISTER

PY291305 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Our mobil unit has a report for us from Government House:

[Begin Relay] Ladies, and gentlemen, this is the Panamericana mobil unit from Government House A few minutes ago President Hernan Siles Zuazo installed Freddy Justiniano as the new minister of industry, commerce, and tourism.

The new minister said that he is going to implement a policy of concentration among all productive sectors and other organizations of the country to seek an agreement aimed at carrying out a coherent price and supply policy. The new minister said that his presence as a member of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] in the government does not mean that his party is represented in the cabinet. He added that he accepted his appointment on a personal basis. [end relay]

SILES TO ADDRESS NATION; SHUFFLE ANTICIPATED

PY291246 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has confirmed that the ministerial cabinet reshuffle will take place this week, following the collective resignation of all ministers, to put into effect the new government 4-year plan. The interior minister made these remarks yesterday, Tuesday, upon leaving Government Palace after presenting new appointments for the Bolivian Police to the president of the Republic.

President Hernan Siles Zuazo will overcome the partial cabinet crisis this week, according to the interior minister. On making remarks to the press, Alvarez Plata said that the new ministerial cabinet could be essentially political, and thus the government will be able to face more decisively the current socioeconomic crisis that has been adversely affecting the nation.

The commission, which has been working in Achocaya, preparing the political, economic, and social guidelines, has ended its work and will submit its report to the president for consideration. These new guidelines to be implemented by Siles Zuazo's government will be released to the people within the next few hours through a message that the president will address to the nation, with pragmatic measures which, according to the interior minister, will be aimed at overcoming the current situation.

The interior minister has also reported that Argentine citizen (Mario Mingola), a collaborator of Garcia Meza's regime, has escaped from the security installations with the cooperation of several agents who have been detained and are now being questioned.

Reshuffle Indefinite; No Address Date

PY291815 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The information minister, who is also the official government spokesman, has stated that the president of the nation has not yet decided whether he will reshuffle his cabinet.

The minister thus dismissed press reports about an alleged cabinet reshuffle.

Dr Mario Rueda Pena said at Government House that there is nothing final about such a reshuffle, adding that he himself would disclose any information on the matter. Rueda Pena also reported that there is no specific time or date for the announced presidential message. He added that the conclusions reached by the leaders of the Democratic and Popular Unity's [UDP] National Executive Committee will be disclosed when the document is concluded. Rueda Pena said that the political analysis made by the UDP [words indistinct]. The UPD leaders continued their analysis this morning with President Siles Zuazo. The meeting, which was presided over by President Siles Zuazo, was not held at Government House, and it is believed that it was held at [words indistinct].

MILITARY COMMAND ORDERS GENERAL'S ARREST

PY291835 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The military high command today ordered the arrest of former Army Commander General Humberto Cayoja, who harshly criticized the government of President Hernan Siles Zuazo and pressed for the establishment of a strong government.

Cayoja, who is retired from the Army, held a press conference in the city of Santa Cruz, located 900 km from La Paz in the southeastern part of Bolivia, to "warn of the lack of political and strategic authorities in the current government to face the economic and political crisis."

Remarks Dismissed by Minister

PY291300 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The remarks made by General Humberto Cayoja, retired, do not reflect the anxieties and feelings of the Armed Forces of the nation, because he has been separated from military activities. This statement was made by Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena, who added that the government has very contradictory reports on the matter of the retired general.

According to the information minister, the position of this retired military officer does not represent a serious problem at all. In a democratic process, all citizens are absolutely free to express their feelings on the country's general situation. Only in de facto regimes are the citizens' freedoms restricted, restrictions that have always been rejected in this country, the information minister stated, responding to Radio Panamericana.

COB Denounces Statement

PY291240 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] has declared a state of emergency in defense of the democratic process which is being threatened by the coup plans sponsored by retired officers and businessmen in the eastern part of the country.

Victor Lima, COB secretary, has harshly criticized Santa Cruz transporters who intend to cut off oil supplies to the country by blocking the Palma Sola refinery in Santa Cruz.

Lima linked the transporters' actions with the declaration released a few hours ago by General Humberto Cayoja, retired. Victor Lima read a four-point document regarding the COB state of emergency.

[Begin Lima recording] The COB has already reported coup plans which seek to disrupt the democratic process. This is a reaffirmation of the position of the COB. Despite the denials, the coup plans have been confirmed by the course of events.

The transporters' strike has become more obvious in Santa Cruz Department, where the strike has turned into an open rebellion with 500 trucks blockading Palma Sola to prevent the normal supply of gasoline and natural gas. This is aimed at paralyzing the country. The blockade is being supported by the presence of about 2,000 people who are demanding a change in the political situation.

Regarding this, General Humberto Cayoja has released a declaration asking "for a strong government." In other words, he is asking for the elimination of democratic freedom and the installation of a fascist government. Similar events have taken place in Cochabamba. [end recording]

Defense Minister on Arrest, Garrisons

PY010313 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] Defense Minister Colonel Manuel Cardenas Mallo has said that so far the activities in the Armed Forces are normal, in answer to press speculation about a possible coup. He added that according to information he has, the garrisons are calm. The defense minister made these remarks this afternoon in the Government Palace.

[Begin Cardenas recording] I cannot talk of possibilities. As I have said on previous occasions, the situation depends on the political evolution. Imponderables do prevail in politics. We do not know what events may take place tomorrow. Regarding [words indistinct], I can say from the military viewpoint that the situation is normal. [end recording]

The defense minister also disclosed that General Humberto Cayoja is under house arrest on orders from the commander of the Armed Forces, General Alfredo Villarroel Barja, for making a statement criticizing the government of the Democratic and Popular Unity. The minister added that Humberto Cayoja made the statement without the prior authorization of higher military officials.

[Begin Cardenas recording] Article 134 says that all military personnel, on active duty or in the reserves, who make statements without the authorization of the high military command are subject to punishment. [end recording] He also said that there have been no other officers arrested or retired. He referred to this case in the following manner.

[Begin recording] [Cardenas] General Mario Vargas Salinas has the confidence of the government. He continues to hold the position of chief of personnel of the Armed Forces Command.

[Unidentified reporter] Is General Vargas Salinas the only one under house arrest?

[Cardenas] [words indistinct] General Cayoja is the one under house arrest at this time in Santa Cruz. [end recording]

BUS WORKERS LEADERS CHARGED WITH SABOTAGE

PY272159 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Feb 84

[Text] The state prosecutor has brought seven public transport leaders to court, charging them with defrauding the state and sabotage. On the basis of reports received, the state prosecutor has filed a lawsuit against seven leaders of the public transport workers. A warrant for their arrest was issued, and later they were released on bail. The individuals involved are Edgar Sandoval Daza, (Serapio Cayuara), (Demetrio Fernandez), (Arturo Coronado), (Flavio Aparicio), and (N. Guerrero).

The bus owners are supposed to appear today before the state prosecutor to make their statements prior to trial. Sources from the office of the state prosecutor report that the bus owners are using perfectly legal arrest warrants, but for political purposes are distorting the truth. The sources indicate that all those involved have been charged with duly proven crimes.

REPORTAGE ON URUGUAYAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Joint Declaration Signed

PY290121 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] During their second working meeting at Government House this afternoon, Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo and Uruguayan President Gregorio Alvarez signed a joint declaration establishing that the Brazilian president will visit Uruguay on a date to be set through diplomatic channels. The declaration also stresses that the visit by the Uruguayan head of state is a new expression of the traditional friendship ties joining the two countries, and that it revealed the importance that the two governments attach to their bilateral relations.

According to the document signed at the West Hall in Government House, during the talks, which were very fruitful, the two presidents stated that international relations must be based on the essential principles of independence and sovereign equality of nations. The declaration also upholds the principles of nonintervention and self-determination of the people, and the principle that forbids the use of force, the threat of force, or any other kind of coercive action in international relations. The document also upholds the principles of peaceful settlement of controversies, good will, respect for treaties, and international cooperation for development.

The two presidents also stated that peace, justice, development, and social well-being are inalienable rights of nations and are the common aspiration of Brazil and Uruguay. Figueiredo and Alvarez upheld the right of each nation to pursue those objectives with due respect for international law and for the principle of the UN Charter, without any pressure that may limit its autonomy.

Demonstrators Protest Visit

PY291230 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 28 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] With much enthusiasm and the beating of pots and pans, which lasted more than 1 hour, approximately 250 persons, including Uruguayans and representatives of Brazilian political organizations, yesterday demonstrated in front of the Uruguayan Consulate in the Flamengo neighborhood against the visit of the Uruguayan military president, Lieutenant General Gregorio Alvarez, who was welcomed yesterday in Brasilia by President Joao Figueiredo.

There is nothing to report to the press, Consul-General Augusto Wild stated on receiving a document from nine political organizations "demanding the release of 1,200 Uruguayan political prisoners and repudiating the visit of Gen Alvarez."

To the sound of clanging pots, the demonstrators marched 200 meters, from the Largo do Machado to the Uruguayan Consulate at 30 Artur Bernardes Street.

Among the approximately 50 Uruguayans who participated in the demonstration were representatives of the National Convention of Workers [CNT], the Uruguayan University Students Federation, and the Broad Front. The Brazilian organizations that supported the demonstration were the Interunion, the Single Workers Union, the Brazilian Amnesty Committee, the Amilcar Cabral Center of Studies and Solidarity [Centro de Estudos e Solidaridade Amilcar Cabral -- CESAC], the CONCLAT [National Conference of the Working Classes], the UNE [National Students Union], the Pro-Paraguayan Democratic Committee, and the Committee for Solidarity with Latin American Peoples [COSPLAN].

The Workers Party, the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party, and the Democratic Labor Party were represented, respectively, by Deputy Liszt Vieira, former Deputy Raimundo de Oliveira, and Councilman Antonio Pereira.

COSPLAN President Bayard Boiteux stated: "The invitation to a fascist dictator to visit Brazil is repudiated by all Brazilian democrats. This is a highly regrettable event."

Alvarez Ends Visit, Departs

PY291630 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Uruguayan military President Lieutenant General Gregorio Alvarez this morning returned to his country after a 2-day visit to Brazil. At the end of the visit, he signed a joint declaration with the traditional terms, including one referring to foreign intervention; that is, the most rigorous respect for the principle of nonintervention.

MILITARY MINISTERS ISSUE NOTE ON ROLE IN POLITICS

PY290300 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Feb 84

["Text" of official note released by the military ministers in Brasilia on 28 February]

[Text] The military ministers have frequently contacted the public through several means such as interviews and official notes to manifest, on behalf of their respective forces, their determination not to interfere in the process of democratization that is being implemented under the direction of President Joao Figueiredo, who has been recognized -- even by those responsible opponents that have been most critical of him -- as the main leader of this process.

The Armed Forces are dedicated exclusively to their professional duties and are not involved in any political or partisan activity. They are permanently on the alert and are ready to discharge their constitutional duty in defense of the fatherland, the government, law and order, and, in particular, in defense of the observance of the Constitution.

Recently, some well-known persons who belong to several groups, and even foreigners, have made statements that are extremely offensive to his excellency, the president of the Republic, and to the military hierarchy. These persons have made use of vulgar and offensive language, showing the clear intention to denigrate the authorities and incite an unacceptable feeling of radicalization among out peace-loving people. This situation has been aggravated by the fact that even lawmakers, taking advantage of their immunity, have directly offended the president of the Republic with rude and unacceptable words, forgetting that it is because of the president, who enjoys the full support of the Armed Forces, that they have the opportunity to speak in public.

The country is experiencing a serious economic crisis and it needs political and psychosocial tranquillity as a basic precondition for the preservation of peace and order, so that everybody may work -- because work is the only path leading to economic development -- and so that the wholesome aspirations of the Brazilian people may be met.

The Armed Forces, through the words of their ministers, reaffirm their unyielding faith in democracy. However, they also stress that in defense of the institutions to which they belong, and organized as they are on the basis of hierarchy and discipline under the supreme authority of the president, and as the [word indistinct] of the other institutions, the Armed Forces cannot tolerate bad Brazilians offending the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. These bad Brazilians, who are led by obscure plans, are fully engaged in agitation.

Democracy is synonymous with freedom and all of us want it. But it is not synonymous with licentiousness and disrespect, which all of us condemn.

[Signed] Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca, Army Minister Walter Pires, Air Force Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos, and Waldir de Vasconcelos, the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff.

CONTROVERSY OVER DIRECT ELECTIONS CONTINUES

PDS Wants Early Vote

PY291255 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Feb 84 p 6

[Excerpts] The government has reached the conclusion that the constitutional amendment restoring direct presidential elections should be voted on in March. Meeting with Civilian Cabinet Chief Leitao de Abreu at the Planalto Palace yesterday morning, the leadership of the PDS [Social Democratic Party] decided not to agree that the amendment be voted upon on 11 April as suggested by the opposition parties, and it decided to consult with the four PDS presidential hopefuls before negotiating with the opposition on the reestablishment of direct elections in 1988.

Despite Deputy Nelson Marchezan's warning that the amendment has great chances of being approved by Congress, the majority of the PDS leadership decided to run the risk of voting on it first and then trying to negotiate with the opposition for direct elections in 1988. Tomorrow, when the president of the State meets with the leadership of all the parties to decide on the date the amendment will be voted upon, there will be no agreement and so Senator Moacyr Dalla will set the date in accordance with the house regulations; that is, between 14 and 22 March.

Everything indicates that, supported by house regulations and taking into account the Planalto and PDS interest, Senator Moacyr Dalla will set the date to vote on the amendment soon after the Mardi Gras celebrations. The amendment meets two conditions provided for in the house regulations: priority and relevance. Even so, the opposition did not want to schedule the voting before 11 April. The opposition leaders allege that the date "is integraded with the campaign for direct elections throughout the country."

'Impasse' on Vote Date

PY291802 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Senate President Moacyr Dalla today will decide on the date to vote on the bill to establish direct elections for president of the Republic. Reporter Carlos Rodrigues has more to say on this from Brasilia.

[Begin relayed Rodrigues report] Deputy Freitas Nobre, leader of the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party [PMDB] in the Chamber of Deputies, a few minutes ago stated here in Congress that the opposition parties will continue insisting on a vote in April for the Dante de Oliveira amendment proposal to reestablish direct elections for president of the Republic.

The impasse continues for the establishment of the date. The opposition wants the voting to begin on 11 April. But the Social Democratic Party [PDS] leaders want to bring forward the voting to March. The PDS leaders feel that the later the voting, the greater will be the mobilization for the approval of the Dante de Oliveira amendment proposal. Freitas Nobre stated that if an agreement is not reached this afternnon for the voting on the proposal in April, the PMDB will destroy the work of Congress, and thus force the postponement of the voting date instead of advancing it to March as the PDS government desires. [end relay]

Army To Block March on Brasilia

PY290255 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Even without emergency measures being decreed, the Army will mobilize its units in Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and the Federal District to block access to Brasilia to impede the march on Brasilia that is being organized by the opposition on the day the Dante de Oliveira amendment reestablishing direct presidential elections is to be voted. The Planalto military commander, General Newton Cruz, has visited the main garrisons under his command to plan that mobilization.

JUSTICE MINISTRY ORDERS RECORDING OF OPPOSITION

PY291410 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] In addition to the note released by the military ministers, we have received reports that all political remarks made by opposition deputies at meetings on direct elections are being recorded by the Federal Police on special orders from the Justice Ministry. Justifying the order, the Justice Ministry has stated that the objective is to file charges, based on the penal code or on the National Security Law, against those congressmen who may offend the president of the Republic.

STRIKE PARALYZES SAO PAULO STEEL PLANT

PY291425 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Sao Paulo Iron and Steel Company [COSIPA], the largest steel plant in the nation, has been completely paralyzed. During a meeting held at the company's building, COSIPA workers decided to begin a strike in demand of a salary readjustment of 88.5 percent and job stability. [Words indistinct] to compensate manpower, COSIPA President (Plinio Arson) began to cool down the blast furnaces, thus paralyzing the enterprise completely. He claimed that the conditions to keep the company functioning were not present because of the lack of security.

Military Police Dislodge Strikers

PY292013 Paris AFP in Spanish 1843 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Cubatao, Brazil, 29 Feb (AFP) -- An antiriot platoon of the military police last night disloged without any incidents the 4,800 striking workers who had taken over the Sao Paulo Iron and Steel Company (COSIPA).

DEPUTY FACES CHARGES FOR INSULTING FIGUEIREDO

PY250245 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Feb 84 p 9

[Excerpt] President Joao Figueiredo felt offended by the violent speech delivered yesterday evening in the Sao Paulo Legislative Assembly by Federal Deputy Joao Cunha (Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party-Sao Paulo) at the launching of the Municipalist Front for Direct Elections. The information was provided by Delegate Romey Tuma, Federal Police regional superintendent, who had received instructions from Brasilia to gather information on the speech and to initiate an inquiry based on provisions of the National Security Law.

The passage of the speech at which President Figueiredo took offense is this: "None of us has to climb the ramp of the Planalto Palace. Mr Figueiredo is the one who has to descend that ramp crawling on all fours and kiss the hands of the nation, asking forgiveness for all that has been done in all these years."

Deputy To Be Tried

PY271424 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The night of 22 February [as heard] in Brasilia, Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel learned of the speech made by Deputy Joao Cunha in which he insulted the president of the Republic. Yesterday the justice minister ordered the military prosecutor to try Deputy Cunha under the National Security Law.

ANGRA I NUCLEAR PLANT OPERATES AT FULL LOAD

PY010200 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The Angra nuclear plant last night operated at full load, which means that 26,000 more megawatts are available to the Sao Paulo-Rio de Janeiro region. This was the start of the testing period of a program that covers this area and that will be completed in 10 to 12 days. The plant will not continue operating at full load, but in keeping with testing conditions. After this last stage, Angra I will be cleared by the CNEN, the National Commission for Nuclear Energy.

NAVY NEGOTIATING MISSILE SYSTEMS FOR CORVETTES

PY250220 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Feb 84 p 6

[Text] Brasilia -- Navy Minister Maximiano da Fonseca yesterday reportd that the Navy is analyzing international proposals for the provision of the missiles that will be installed in four of the 12 corvettes that the Navy will commission beginning next year. We are basically dealing with three proposals, Da Fonseca said: the French Exocet missile, the Gabriel missile built by Israel, and the Otomat missile built by the Oto Melara Matra joint venture.

The minister explained that the negotiations are now dealing with prices and that the eight other ships will be equipped with missiles to be built in Brazil under licence. That is why we have not bought the missiles yet. We also want the technology, he remarked.

NAVY BUILDS NEW PIERS ON MOCANGUE ISLAND

PY280217 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Feb 84 p 7

[Excerpts] The Navy Ministry is building piers measuring a total of approximately 1 km on Mocangue Island, in Guanabara Bay, to permit the Brazilian fleet to operate more efficiently. The project, which last year was estimated to cost 5.7 billion cruzeiros, will cost double that by the time it is completed in March 1985 because of inflation. To solve the problem of water polluted by sewage from Mocangue Island, the pier project also includes a water treatment plant similar to that built on Engenho Island, in Niteroi, where the Navy's Missile and Submarine Arms Center is based, and on the Enxadas Island, where the Admiral Wandenkolk Training Center is located.

The complex of piers, which is located 4 km from Niteroi and 10 km from Rio de Janeiro, will have all the necessary facilities to service docked vessels, including a ship maneuvering basin and access passageways on the piers. The work is well advanced, and 268 piles of the 421 required have been put in place since the floating platform Piata began to operate. The dredging of 630,000 cubic meters of earth to form the bay for maneuvering ships has been completed. The piers will be made up of five modules 137 meters long, 15 meters wide, and 10 meters deep, plus one that is 270 meters long, 15 meters wide, and 10 meters deep. Ten frigates and 21 destroyers can be accommodated simultaneously at the piers. Each module will have drinking water, electricity, telephone, sewage, a fire control system, compressed air, and steam.

Important Navy units are now located on Mocangue Island, such as the office of the fleet commander in chief, the submarine force, the Admiral Castro e Silva Base, the bases of the frigates and destroyers forces, the Admiral Moraes Rego Center, the Rio de Janeiro Naval Station, and the Special Landing Group (GED).

As part of the project for the new piers complex, the Admiral Marques de Leao Training Center will be constructed on the island's reclaimed area. This center is now operating out of the 8th floor of the building of the Rio de Janeiro Navy Arsenal on Cobras Island, and it is responsible for training personnel for the Navy combat units through the following schools: tactics, combat information, antisubmarine warfare, communications and general services, firefighting, ship repair, and salvage.

DOMESTIC OIL TO REDUCE IMPORTS BY $2.5 BILLION

PY272313 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Because of increased domestic production, Brazil will spend only $4.2 billion on oil imports in 1984, $2.5 billion less than in 1983. Overall imports will amount to $6.7 billion, but from this $2.5 billion must be discounted as money that Petrobras will receive for fuels sold to foreign countries. In January 1984, domestic consumption was somewhat below 900,000 barrels per day while domestic production was close to 450,000 barrels per day. The sustained decline in imports will allow Brazil to negotiate more favorable contracts with international bankers, which will slow the recession.

SEGUEL ALLEGEDLY INCITES VIOLENCE IN PUNTA ARENAS

PY281200 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Marxists incited by political activist Rodolfo Seguel were involved last night in violent incidents in Punta Arenas. The incidents took place at the end of a ceremony held at the Punta Arenas Cervantes Theater.

The following is a relay from Punta Arenas:

[Begin relay] Four injured Carabineros, 14 persons arrested, and extensive damage to Army, municipal, and Radio Nacional buildings are the results of a demonstration that was called by the National Workers Command [CNT] and presided over by union leader Rodolfo Seguel.

The incidents started at 2100 in the downtown sector of Punta Arenas, and they ended a little after 2300 when Carabineros were able to gain control of the situation.

Groups of demonstrators who attended a ceremony held at the Cervantes Theater tried to stage a demonstration in the downtown area and shouted slogans against the fatherland, President Pinochet, the Army, and the Carabineros. Since the demonstration was not authorized, it was dispersed by Carabineros.

There were very violent incidents. Hoards of demonstrators, who paraded through the city, started throwing rocks at the 5th Army Division Headquarters located on (?Doria) Street in downtown Punta Arenas. This forced the command to detach troops to safeguard the building from attacks. The demonstrators also threw rocks against the Radio Nacional building in Punta Arenas. [end relay]

COURT RULES AGAINST LABOR LEADER ALMEYDA

PY291340 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The courts have decided that Marxist leader Manuel Almeyda has committed two violations of the National Security Law. Originally, Almeyda was charged with violating the security law only on one instance. But, as a result of an appeal submitted by the Interior Ministry, the Santiago Appellate Court extended the charges. Almeyda, the leader of a group called the Popular Democratic Movement, delivered a subversive speech during a political meeting held at the Caupolican Theater.

INSULTS PAINTED ON CATHOLIC CHURCH BUILDINGS

PY292130 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The archbishopric building and other church facilities have had inscriptions painted on them. The archbishopric building, at 1822 Erasmo Escala Street, was painted early this morning with the inscription "Red Bishops." Offensive comments and serious accusations have also been painted on other church facilities, including Caritas, the Vicariate building of education, the cooperative building, and the Education Research Center.

The inscriptions said: Here are the reds; Our 1 percent finances terrorism; Enough of Marxism; Against atheistic Marxism, traitors of the fatherland; Enough of Marxism in the church, long live Pinochet. Around noon Carabinero officials arrived at Erasmo Escala Street to investigate the situation.

Santiago Archbishop Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno arrived at the bishopric at about 1000. His comments were very brief, but expressed surprise at this unusual event. Msgr Juan Francisco Fresno said that he regretted this action and was surprised because he feels we are living in a civilized country. At around noon church employees began cleaning up the insults written on the walls of the church buildings. Catholic Church officials said that this action is also an attack on the Santiago archbishop.

The so-called Commando for the Defense of the Fatherland has attacked several church organizations and parishes in the last few weeks. The Santiago Archbishopric said that the insults written on the church buildings by the so-called Commando for the Defense of the Fatherland are a despicable attack on the church. The archbishopric added that attacks on the Catholic Church are increasing. The official declaration calls on government officials to find the people responsible for this action.

CNI DENOUNCES CHARGES, CHARACTER OF 'DESERTER'

PY291730 Paris AFP in Spanish 1400 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Santiago, 29 Feb (AFP) -- The national Intelligence Center (CNI), the secret police of the Chilean regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet, has denied that it has any relation with a former government employee who has sought asylum in Italy and who has charged that the government committed [word indistinct] and other atrocities.

In an official communique, the CNI reports that Jorge Antonio Carrasco Ramirez has not been and is not a CNI employee nor has he ever been connected with the CNI.

The CNI communique notes that Carrasco had successively been a minor official in the Chilean Air Force and the Carabineros corps (the militarized police) from which at the end of December he stole $3,000 to travel to Brazil and Italy.

In Rome, Carrasco said he is an Air Force lieutenant and a member of the [word indistinct].

The alleged CNI deserter disclosed certain methods used by the CNI and the previous government security police (DINA). He also reported the alleged existence of death squads that act under the cover of business enterprises that are headed by former members of the Chilean Armed Forces.

BRIEFS

NEW CIVILIAN ORGANIZATIONS DIRECTOR -- Colonel Jose Carrera was installed as the new director of civilian organizations yesterday. Carrera replaces Colonel Carlos Krumm, who has been appointed general under secretary of government. [Excerpt] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 12 Jan 84 p C5 PY]

WHEAT HARVEST REPORT -- The Agriculture Ministry has reported that the country will save $40 million due to the increase in the 1983-84 wheat harvest. The Ministry reported that during that period wheat production covered an area of 471,320 hectares, a 31.2-percent increase over the area covered during the 1982-83 harvest. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Jan 84 pp A1, A3 PY]

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FIGURES -- The Industrial Development Association, SOFOFA, has reported that during 1983 industrial production increased 4.6 percent and that sales increased 1.5 percent, in comparison to 1982. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 27 Jan 84 pp A1, A3 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSES STRENGTH OF CONTADORA

PA292235 Paris AFP in Spanish 1540 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (AFP) -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda last night returned from Panama, where he attended this year's second meeting of the Contadora Group. He said in Bogota today that the Group's harmony, strength, and determination "are vital signs that we are getting closer to peace." Asked if the Contadora Group has lost importance, Lloreda said that "Contadora is not dying. On the contrary, it has just been strengthened by the support of the new Governments of Panama and Venezuela."

Lloreda indicated that 30 April will be decisive in the search for peace in Central America and noted that a draft on the guidelines for pacification will be presented to the Contadora Group countries on that day. The text will include the recommendations in the economic, social, political, and security fields that formed part of the report entitled "Principles of Implementation of the Commitments Assumed in the Document of Objectives."

Lloreda ruled out the possibility that the future draft will include some aspects, even general ones, of the Kissinger report.

"The Kissinger report is totally American. Our focus is different because it is based on an understanding of the Latin American problems," he said, adding that "there might be coinciding objectives, but the methodology is different."

CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION PLAN READY

PA010420 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1815 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (DPA) -- Colombia will initiate an economic plan of support for Central American countries tomorrow as a contribution to the Contadora Group peace efforts being made in this region.

The program, which has been prepared by President Belisario Betancur's government, includes granting preference in customs tariffs to several products that Colombia will import from the Central American nations in an effort to intensify import and export trade and to balance the Central American deficit. This opening to trade, however, will be limited to the import restriction policy that the government has adopted in order to protect local industry and to reduce the flow of foreign exchange.

The first agreements will be signed this week by Colombia with Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, and in March with Honduras and El Salvador.

Gustavo Tobon Londono, director of the Colombian Foreign Trade Institute (INCOMEX), today said that this is the first step toward the crystallization of the ideal expressed by President Betancur at different international forums, in regard to seeking a high degree of freedom in regional trade.

The agreements that will be signed with the Central American countries are not reciprocal, and Colombia will try to significantly increase its purchases of Central American products, official spokesmen explained in Bogota. To confirm these agreements, which have been previously discussed, Rodrigo Marin Bernal, Colombian economics development minister, and Gustavo Tobon Londono, director of the INCOMEX, will travel to Central America tomorrow.

This Thursday, the two officials will sign the economic cooperation agreement with the Guatemalan Government. Friday they will do the same with the Nicaraguan authorities, and Saturday with the Costa Rican Government in San Jose.

NEWLY APPOINTED DEFENSE MINISTER HOSPITALIZED

PA010231 Paris AFP in Spanish 1630 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Bogota, 29 Feb (AFP) -- A coronary ailment forced General Gustavo Matamoros D'Costa, the newly appointed Colombian defense minister, to enter the Central Military Hospital in Bogota today. Matamoros, 56, entered the medical center at 1600 GMT due to a "mild pain," according to a hospital spokesman, and "was held for observation" after an examination. "The general was exhausted when he arrived," the spokesman said, explaining however that "it does not appear to be serious."

Matamoros joined conservative President Belisario Betancur's cabinet last 17 January, replacing General Fernando Landazabal, who was named Colombian ambassador to the Netherlands yesterday.

ARMS SMUGGLING IN SANTA MARTA; AIRPORT INVOLVED

PA290452 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 27 Feb 84 p 3-A

[By Walter Martinez P.]

[Text] Santa Marta, 25 Feb -- Official sources have reported that guerrilla arms smuggling has increased along the coast of Santa Marta, and apparently Simon Bolivar Airport is being used to fly the arms to the eastern plains and to Middle Magdalena.

Military authorities have been silent about this, but according to reports obtained from investigations, it has been detected that along the Santa Marta and Guajira coast the arms are being unloaded and then flown out.

What is even worse is that Santa Marta's Simon Bolivar Airport is being used to fly out these arms, it was learned. There is definite evidence to confirm these suspicions. According to reports, two Cessna model C-46 planes left the airport during the predawn hours Friday for an unknown destination, presumably carrying arms. This airport does not operate at that hour because commercial flights are scheduled during the day. Everything points to the conclusion that they had all the light and signal facilities needed for this type of operation. Thus, several aeronautics officials and a control tower operator were called for questioning.

SUBVERSIVES ATTACK POLICE SUBSTATION WITH ROCKET

PA010315 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Feb 84 pp 1-A, 3-A

[Text] Yesterday members from an unidentified subversive group fired a rocket at the police substation in La Despensa, southwest of the capital.

The incident took place early yesterday, when two policemen were in the substation's dormitory and the other members of the police force were beginning the day's first patrol shift.

According to reports to EL TIEMPO, the rocket was directed at the dormitory of the duty personnel, but it exploded a few meters away from the building.

This is the first time that a clandestine group has attacked a command post with this type of rocket, which is electronically activated and is self-propelled once activated. Previous attacks have been with bazookas, which have less destructive power than rockets. The shot was apparently fired less than 300 meters from the building, where four policemen were on duty and two others were asleep inside the building.

TERRORIST PLAN TO DISRUPT PUBLIC ORDER DETECTED

PA270051 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Feb 84 p 2A

[Text] Medellin, 18 Feb -- Colonel Carlos Arturo Casadiego Torrado, commander of Medellin's Metropolitan Police Force, today said that intelligence services have detected a terrorist plan to disrupt public order in several cities of Antioquia Department. He said that the killing of two policemen is part of this plan. The commander said that the terorrists were planning to use individuals dressed as policemen to cause disorder.

According to Casadiego Torrado, policemen Jose Henao Hernandez and Jose Abelardo Gonzalez were killed by members of urban guerrilla groups who took their weapons and identity tags. The polcemen were killed in two passenger buses.

The police chief said that the disorders will probably be conducted in Itagui and eastern Antioquia.

In the east, Sunday will mark the beginning of a civic strike to protest the energy rate increase imposed by the local power company. The strike will last 72 hours and has the backing of businesses, municipal councils, and thousands of inhabitants of 40 municipalities in eastern Antioquia Department and 14 municipalities in the southwest.

During three civic strikes in eastern Antioquia in past years there were serious disorders in Rionegro, Marinilla, and Guarna. Colonel Casadiego Torrado asked for the cooperation of the population to prevent disturbances and attempts against public peace.

EPL GROUP BURNS TWO UNSUBSIDIZED CITY BUSES

PA242042 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Bucaramanga -- Two city service buses were burned here this afternoon by an urban group belonging to the clandestine rebel Popular Liberation Army, EPL. According to the authorities, the two buses, which belonged to Transcolombia, S.A., were intercepted by a group of masked men. After forcing the passengers to disembark, the men burned the vehicles.

Firemen who hurried to the Santander Industrial University and the Chapinero neighborhood were unable to put out the fires. The resulting losses have been estimated at more than 3 million pesos. Shortly afterward, an EPL group distributed leaflets in which they claimed responsibility for burning the two vehicles, which were not included in the subsidies program. Secret police departments have initiated an operation to identify the terrorists, who have burned several city service vehicles in the past few days.

FISHERMEN ALLEGE TORTURE BY PERUVIAN NAVY

PA292021 Paris AFP in Spanish 1549 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 29 Feb (AFP) -- Ecuadoran fishermen claim to have been tortured and questioned on military topics by members of the Peruvian Army who captured them last Wednesday as they mistakenly entered, by their own account, Peruvian waters, confiscating their vessel and fishing equipment, which they valued at a million sucres [$11,350]. The incident took place near the southern Ecuadoran Province of Oro and the northern Peruvian Department of Tumbes. The fishermen were released on Monday.

Benigno Chombe, Segundo Chombe, and Wilfrido Castro said that the crew of a Peruvian patrol boat blindfolded them and took them to a military installation where they were tortured and questioned about the number of Ecuadoran patrol boats at Puerto Bolivar, Oro Province, the names of their captains, the number of personnel that the Ecuadoran Navy has in that area, and other military information.

Finally, they said that they were turned over to the Ecuadoran consul in Tumbes last Monday and were then taken to Huaquillas, Ecuador, where they received medical attention.

BRIEFS

TREATY WITH BRAZIL RATIFIED -- Ecuador and Brazil have ratified the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries, which was signed in Brazil on 9 January 1982. The documents of ratification were exchanged at the Foreign Ministry. [Text] [Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Feb 84 PA]

NEW OIL MARKETS -- A mission of the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation, CEPE, is currently conducting visits to China, Japan, and South Korea in an attempt to increase oil sales to those countries. CEPE Director Patricio Ribadeneira reported that CEPE has already secured long-term sales contracts with the Chinese Petroleum Corporation and Sunkyong for 15,000 barrels per day each, with Coastal States for 36,000 barrels per day, BELCO for 109,000 barrels per day, and with Voest Alpine for 12,000 barrels per day. [Summary] [Vienna OPECNA in Spanish 0704 GMT 18 Feb 84 PA]

SOCCER TEAM SAID CAPTURED ON ECUADORAN BORDER

PY291500 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Fernando Schwalb Lopez Aldana this afternoon said that he has received no official information on the capture of a Peruvian soccer team on the Ecuadoran border, which was reported by a local newspaper this morning. Here are his comments:

[Begin recording] [Schwalb] We have not received any news either from our embassies or from the local authorities. For this reason, this news must be confirmed to clear up the picture before we adopt any measures. I know absolutely nothing about it so far.

[Unidentified reporter] In connection with the publicity about the situation with Ecuador, will the Foreign Ministry's Public Relations Department issue a communique denying the incident?

[Schwalb] Of course. As soon as the corresponding authorities convey to us their finding, the Public Relations Department will issue a communique. [end recording]

TORTURE BY ECUADORAN ARMY, POLICE REPORTED

PY291455 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Tumbes Prefect Alberto (Balcarce) today reported that Ecuadoran Army and Rural Police personnel have committed abuses near the border. He said that three Peruvians, including a woman, have been arbitrarily arrested and tortured. Professor (Wilfredo Biscoya), one of the detainees, has shown marks on his body which prove that he was tortured during his captivity.

ALVA DECIDES NOT TO RUN AS AP CANDIDATE

PY281347 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Second Vice President and Senator Javier Alva Orlandini has reiterated his decision not to run as a candidate in Popular Action's [AP] internal elections. I will bow to the decision adopted by the rank and file during the next AP national convention, he said.

AIRPORT OPERATIONS NORMAL DESPITE STRIKE

PY291405 Lima Television Service in Spanish 0430 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Activity at the Jorge Chaves International Airport is normal despite the announced 24-hour strike, which was observed by only a small group of CORPAC [Corporation for Airports and Commercial Aviation] workers. The arrival and departure times of morning national and international flights were not affected. Specialized Peruvian Air Force personnel cooperated with most of the workers who reported to work. Loading and unloading operations as well as maintenance work proceeded normally.

CIVIL GUARD CAPTURES THREE ALLEGED TERRORISTS

PY281429 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] A brave Civil Guard member this morning captured three alleged terrorists roaming about in the vicinity of the Mexican Embassy in Lima. The incident occurred when Civil Guard Jose de la Cruz Mendoza, who was posted at the Mexican diplomatic mission, noticed that a Volkswagen with no license plate and with its lights off was roaming around. The car was being driven by Jaime Barrera Montoya, 22, who was accompanied by Cesar (Arangueza) Gutierrez and Roberto (Castia Albase). Barrera Montoya accelerated when he heard the guard's whistle.

A few minutes later, the car appeared again going at full speed and tried to run down the guard, who took out his revolver. Mendoza wounded Cesar (Arangueza) Gutierrez and captured the other two individuals.

POLITICAL PRISONERS' RELATIVES STAGE MARCH

PY281212 Paris AFP in Spanish 0224 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Montevideo, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Approximately 3,000 relatives of people prosecuted by the Uruguayan military regime last night staged a peaceful march along Montevideo's main avenue demanding an official response [words indistinct] four blocks clapping their hands until they encountered a strong police line which did not allow them to complete their march, which was initially planned to finish at Plaza Independencia, where Government House is located.

The column turned back, but before dispersing the demonstrators sang the national anthem at Plaza Cagancha (Libertad) and they shouted slogans: "The military dictatorship will end"; "United people will never be defeated"; and "Free, free the prisoners [words indistinct]." The demonstrators were carrying different signs with different personal requests. Apparently no arrests were made during the march.

Last December, [words indistinct] relatives of political prisoners gathered in front of Government House and they submitted a note requesting amnesty to President Gregorio Alvarez.

WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION NOT ALLOWED BY POLICE

PY010300 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 84

["Text" of communique No 5 issued by the Montevideo Police on 29 February]

[Text] It is hereby reported that a women's committee, which is sponsoring the acts that will mark the International Day of Women on 8 March 1984, has requested authorization to commemorate the date by staging a demonstration and a silent march during which a document on the significance of the day is to be read. The demands posed by the sponsors and the advertising of the acts through different mass media, which have reported on the commemoration of the day and on its motivation of protests by unionized women, lead to the conclusion that the objectives of the act may be used by some sectors for their own political purposes. This may jeopardize public order, which must be preserved by the Montevideo Police.

In view of the above, and taking into account that what has been requested does not conform with the terms of the decrees issued on 2 August 1983 and 18 January 1984, decrees that are still in force, the Montevideo Police have decided not to grant the request.

The Montevideo Police hereby inform the people that the request has been rejected and that the necessary measures have been taken.

STRIKE PROMPTS DISTURBANCES IN NUEVO LAREDO

PA242023 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 22 Feb 84 pp 1-A, 22-A, 31-A

[By E. Rivas and E. Pedroza]

[Text] Neuvo Laredo, Tamaulipas, 21 Feb -- Approximately 1,200 people this afternoon staged a rally in front of the Government Palace and later set fire to the home and automobile of CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] leader Pedro Perez Ibarra. They also damaged the offices of the local newspaper LAREDO AHORA and wrecked dozens of stores to protest the strike that was declared yesterday by the workers of 272 firms in support of the Union of Workers of Public Tree Nurseries, Parks, and Gardens [Sindicato de Trabajadores de Viveros, Parques y Jardines Publicos], leaving the city virtually paralyzed.

The violence began when a group of students went to the gas station at the intersection of Madero and Lerdo de Tejada Streets and used the pumps to fill the tanks of city buses so that they could resume service. Several workers tried to stop them, prompting the protestors to destroy the installations and to steal cash and automobile batteries.

Led by Ernesto Salazar Martinez, counsel for the local branch of CANACO [Mexico City Chamber of Commerce], the demonstrators then went to Perez' house on Bolivar Street, ransacked it and set it on fire, along with a vehicle belonging to Perez, whom they blame for the strike.

Later, the protestors went to the premises of the newspaper LAREDO AHORA on Iturbide and Bolivar Streets and damaged its managing offices, editing room, and teletype and data processing equipment. They also set fire to the car belonging to Fidel Perez Vasquez, the newspaper's director, who said that the damage was substantial and will prevent publication of the newspaper for several days.

The demonstrators continued their march through the city's main streets, smashing windows, signs, and vehicles. Speaking over a radio station, Mayor Ricardo de Hoyos urged the population to maintain order, "because violence solves nothing." He promised that the strikes would be ended at 0800, allowing a resumption of normal activity.

Meanwhile, the customs workers have also joined the strike, leaving dozens of trucks parked in their yards. Food and medicine have started to become scarce on the 2d day of the strike. The urban transportation service has been suspended, because the buses lack gasoline and diesel fuel with the stations closed.

Eduardo Montelongo and Emilio Porte Petit, representatives of the Government Secretariat, have continued talks with the leaders of the Gardeners' Union, which has been disowned by Mayor Hoyos.

Meanwhile, some 1,500 students from the Technological Institute of Nuevo Laredo, the Higher School of Commerce, and preparatory schools last night stoned the home of CTM leader Pedro Perez Ibarra. Three students received gunshot wounds during the incident. A radio operator on duty at the Red Cross said that the shooting began when the demonstrators tried to invade the home of Perez Ibarra, who is also a deputy. His house is located on Doctor Mier and Heroes Streets.

Students Hector Gaubcin, Bernardino Cardenas Guerra, and Javier Gonzalez Elizondo were shot and wounded and were taken to the Social Security Hospital for treatment. Their attackers have not been identified, but they are believed to be members of Perez' security personnel.

The city's authorities have not intervened directly to stop the disturbances and the Army has remained on the sidelines. Prosecutor Francisco Villarreal, the only government contact with the rioters, was still talking with them at midnight in an effort to end the strike.

PPS LEADER ADDRESSES CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

PA230227 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 18 Feb 84 p 3

[By Jose Luis Uribe O.]

[Text] Jorge Cruickshank, president of the Popular Socialist Party [PPS], yesterday said that the church, in its drive to gain political power, is conspiring against national institutions. He forecast that the 1985 elections for Chamber of Deputy seats would be a critical test for democratic and revolutionary forces in view of the imperialist and rightist onslaught.

In his report on party activities during 1983, Cruickshank said that in the coming elections the right and imperialism will unleash a brutal attack as part of their plan to deal a crushing blow to the people and their revolution.

Cruickshank read a 35-page document attacking the church, the bourgeoisie, imperialism, and the political parties that are playing into the hands of foreign interests. He said that in the coming months there will be an intense struggle between the forces favoring national independence and those favoring surrendering our sovereignty to imperialist interests.

Addressing the 76th plenum of the PPS Central Committee, Cruickshank criticized the U.S. interventionist and armaments policy "that brings closer the danger of a nuclear war."

He said that there has been no increase in national economic development. Unemployment and part-time employment has increased and now covers about 9 million Mexicans. He said: "The increases in the cost of living are unbridled, and this is harming the poor masses."

He said that more than half of the national budget assigned to federal government expenses will be used to service the foreign debt.

Cruickshank said that 857,000 barrels of oil are being sold to the United States daily. This in in violation of the Energy Law, which states that no single country should obtain more than half of the national oil exports.

Referring to reports that the government will return expropriated firms to bankers, Cruickshank said that the working class and many voices in Congress have demanded that "the state not deliver to the bourgeoisie the enterprises needed to strengthen the independent development of our economy."

He also said that it would be desirable and very positive if an understanding were reached among leftist forces to strengthen the working class' revolutionary struggle. This would enable us to face the constant activities of the conservative and counter-revolutionary forces aimed at winning national struggles.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL TO REMAIN OPEN FOR DOCUMENTS

PA29[illegible]26 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The Electoral Tribunal will provide the political parties and independent candidates with the opportunity to submit the documents required by the Electoral Tribunal, according to Everardo Tomlinson, Electoral Tribunal secretary general. The Electoral Tribunal offices will remain open until 2400 tomorrow so that the political parties will not have a problem submitting their documents.

Some candidates have complained about problems obtaining their police records at the National Investigations Office, DENI, and about problems with some corregidores and mayors who will not sign their residence papers. The Electoral Tribunal sent a note to DENI's director general asking for his cooperation so that the candidates will not have problems obtaining their police records. A similar note was sent to the Government and Justice Ministry asking the corregidores, mayors, and governors to cooperate in signing the candidates' residence papers.

The Electoral Tribunal Legal Department has explained the system of quotient and half quotient, as applied in the case of legislators. An electoral quotient and half quotient are obtained by dividing the number of valid votes by the number of candidates participating for a post elected by popular vote. (Carlos Alberto Bonilla), Electoral Tribunal Legal Department director, explained that in a circuit containing 50,000 voters with five candidates for legislators, the electoral quotient would be 10,000 and the half quotient would be 5,000. The political party whose candidate obtains 10,000 or more votes is automatically elected. If none of the other candidates have a full quotient, the political party whose candidate has more than 5,000 votes will have the right to a seat on the Legislative Assembly.

In the case of the parties that are participating in an alliance, which have nominated the same candidates on the same electoral circuit, the total number of votes divided by the number of candidates will determine whether a seat in the Legislative Assembly will be obtained.

To determine if a party maintains its legal status, all the valid votes obtained by the party will be added. This will also determine if a party has the right to a legislator.

In the case of an alliance of parties, all valid votes of the parties that form the alliance are added in favor of the candidate that obtains the majority of votes. This is also effective for alternates.

SIX ETA MEMBERS REPORTED STILL IN COUNTRY

PA251426 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 25 Feb 84 p A-1

[From the "Here...and There" column]

[Text] Six guerrillas of the Basque anti-government organization (ETA) [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] in Spain who sought refuge in Panama since 11 January when they were deported from France, are still in this country, according to a National Defense Force spokesman. The guerrillas want to leave for Europe, but the countries consulted said they preferred that the guerrillas remain in Latin America, the spokesman said.

COSTA RICA

SANDINIST PATROL KIDNAPS NICARAGUAN REFUGEES

PA290439 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] According to residents of La Cruz de Las Delicias in Opala, a Sandinist Army patrol entered Costa Rican territory at approximately 1100 last Thursday and kidnapped two Nicaraguan refugees, who were identified as Italo Borge and Marcos Barrios. Nothing has been heard of them since, the sources added.

The territorial violation took place at the Escamilla farm, located near the Costa Rican-Nicaraguan border. Juan Martinez, a resident of this zone, was wounded in a leg and an arm by a grenade. Martinez was taken to the Liberia hospital and was released following treatment.

This afternoon we talked to a resident in La Cruz de Las Delicias in Opala about the Sandinist Army patrol's violation of our territory. He told us that approximately 100 men were in the patrol group, and that they were probably searching for collaborators with the counterrevolutionary groups.

The circumstances surrounding Martinez' wounding are not clear. He was most likely kidnapped and then wounded as he tried to escape. Opala residents are worried about these new attacks by Sandinist forces.

EL SALVADOR

COPREFA: NEGOTIATIONS PREVENT POLITICAL SOLUTION

PA010116 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA; date and place not given]

[Text] There must be negotiations in El Salvador, THE WASHINGTON POST asserted in its 27 February editorial. If there are no negotiations, the editorial argues, the U.S. Government will continue providing military aid, and the Salvadoran Government will remain in power, but the war will go on.

It is one thing to sincerely desire an end to the war and the achievement of a political resolution, but it is quite another thing to consider negotiations as a political solution. A political solution is a democratic concept. It means that the Salvadoran people will choose their destiny. To put it another way, without the people's will expressed through democratic procedures, there is no political solution. The Salvadoran Government and Armed Forces understand this. Therefore, they are resolutely promoting the process of democratization that will culminate on 25 March when the people will directly elect their leaders.

Negotiations are not a political solution. From a democratic point of view, negotiations are a procedure whose fundamental hallmark is the people's absence from decision-making. In practice, there is no serious basis on which to negotiate. The newspaper of the Salvadoran church has expressed this clearly: With this document [FMLN-FDR peace proposal] the left-wing organizations want to obtain publicity for their ideology, even at the cost of losing objectivity. Suspicion of their desire for propaganda grows when one sees that these organizations are making their proposals from outside the democratic process, and perhaps with the intention of stopping the democratic course of the 25 March elections.

To be sincere, the church editorial continues, judging from the way that they have operated thus far, the FDR-FMLN leftists are more credible when they struggle with machine guns and shout slogans. It will be hard for them to sound convincing with political proposals. This was taken from the San Salvador weekly ORIENTATION dated 26 February, 1984, page 3, which referred to the FDR-FMLN peace proposal.

It would be very healthy if the author of THE WASHINGTON POST editorial and all the U.S. sectors that support the editorial's viewpoint could once and for all understand the substantial difference between a political solution and a negotiated solution -- that is, if the common language is democracy.

LABOR UNIONS REJECT GOVERNMENT WAGE OFFER

PA292251 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1858 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- The two unions, which have maintained a general strike in government organizations for several days, today rejected a government proposed pay increase "because it does not adequately cover our needs," according to union spokesmen. The Salvadoran social security and sewers department unions, with almost 9,000 members, yesterday rejected the government proposal to resolve the conflict.

A Salvadoran Social Security Institute labor leader told ACAN-EFE that "this is a government maneuver to control the strike movement." The Social Security Institute's 4,700 workers have been on strike for 9 days, demanding a 400 colones ($160) salary increase.

The cabinet has offered to increase all employees' wages based on a scale that would increase the lowest salaries -- those of up to 600 colones ($240) -- by 10 percent and give proportionately smaller increases to higher salaries. This measure will cost Alvaro Magana's administration an additional 4.5 million colones ($1.8 million) per month. The proposal will be discussed today at the Legislative Assembly and, if approved, will take effect tomorrow.

A union representative of the National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers, ANDA, where approximately 4,000 employees are in their 3d day of a strike, said: "What the government is approving and what the workers are demanding are two completely different things."

According to union spokesmen, the two organizations' offices were calm today, even though the National Police have been stationed at ANDA. Death threats have been issued by armed extreme right-wing groups against the social security union's members, who have their headquarters at the general hospital in San Salvador.

Labor Minister Julio Alfredo Samayoa today made a statement to a local newspaper in which he rejected the idea that these strikes have been organized by "groups seeking to create unrest and disturbances."

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Colonel Adolfo Blandon told a local newspaper that these strikes are part of "a campaign to create economic and social instability" and have been "organized by leftist agitators." The labor minister, however, denied that this had been ascertained; instead, he said, "we have received strong cooperation from the unions for a prompt resolution to their demands."

Venceremos Notes Labor Unrest

PA292245 (Clandestine) Radio Veneremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] Two more strikes were declared in San Salvador on 27 February, in which 5,000 workers, whose primary demand is wage increases from the government, are taking part. Some 4,000 employees from the National Administration of Waterworks and Sewers, ANDA, are on strike, demanding a wage increase of 400 colones per month, while BANCATI [not further identified] workers are demanding a wage increase of 250 colones per month.

It was learned that at noon today, 27 February, police surrounded the ANDA offices in San Salvador. A spokesman for the ANDA workers said that ANDA's president, Colonel Roberto Esteban Santos, threatened workers by ordering that the office doors be opened by force. It is feared, therefore, that the National Police might take action against the workers. ANDA's spokesman added: We want to state that because of these threats, we may cut the national water supply. Depending on the attitude assumed by ANDE management and the repressive corps, we could respond with more drastic measures, the union leader added.

Meanwhile, workers from the Salvadoran Institute of Social Security, INSS, have been on strike for 8 days, after refusing to accept management's offer to increase wages by 100 colones per month. In an interview with a radio station, an INSS worker said: We will continue the strike until our objectives are met.

Last week, workers from the Institute of Supply Regulation, from the Salvadoran Credit Bank [Banco de Credito Salvadoreno], from the Central Reserve Bank [Banco Central de Reserva], and from the Spinning and Weaving Factory [Fabrica de Hilados y Tejidos] went on strike.

Within this context, the two additional strikes erupted in San Salvador on 27 February, encompassing approximately 5,000 workers.

D'AUBUISSON DISCUSSES PDC-UPD COALITION

PA010308 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 29 Feb 84 pp 2, 9

[Text] The wave of strikes in the past few days is a maneuver "skillfully manipulated by the Christian Democrats," mainly in the institutions led by ARENA [National Republican Alliance] officials, presidential candidate Major Roberto D'Aubuisson has stated. In a speech yesterday to the Salvadoran Association of Coffee Processors and Exporters, D'Aubuisson announced that he and his running mate, Hugo Barrera, will travel to the United States next week to explain the Salvadoran situation.

The ARENA candidate commented on the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and the Democratic Popular Unity [UPD] coalition, foreign journalists, President Magana's policies, and the failure of the announced coalition between the Salvadoran Popular Party, ARENA, and the Salvadoran Authentic Institutional Party. Regarding the recent PDC-UPD coalition, D'Aubuisson said that the PDC has always preferred to remain in harmony with leftist organizations, and that in this case it is only a matter of a few UPD leaders who have been won over by the Christian Democrats.

He reiterated the charges that he made in November against Samuel Maldonado, whom he accuses of maintaining contact with the leftist fronts. He indicated that he will present proof of this on a television program on Thursday, 1 March.

Nevertheless, D'Aubuisson clarified that not all the UPD leaders have acted like Maldonado. He said he will issue a call to the UPD rank and file so that they will not let themselves be deceived by a few leaders.

The ARENA presidential candidate also indicated that the pressure that UPD leaders want to exert on UPD members to vote for the PDC is improper because union organizations should not be politicized. As a result, the UPD is alienating itself. D'Aubuisson said that he will study the case and that he will file the appropriate charge.

Replying to a question on the "death squads," D'Aubuisson asked the audience: "What sort of death squads other than Napoleon Duarte [PDC presidential candidate] asking friendly governments to cut aid? What sort other than the groups of foreign journalists who provide misinformation about the reality of our country?"

D'Aubuisson harshly criticized President Magana's economic policy, and he promised the coffee processors that if he wins the elections he will denationalize banks and foreign trade. He stressed: "We will return to the free enterprise system."

VENCEREMOS REPORTS RECENT MILITARY ACTIVITY

Attack on Train

PA291754 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Here is a report that we have received from the Feliciano Ama western front. At 1730 on 27 February, [words indistinct] a FENADESAL [El Salvador National Railroad] train. Our counterrevolutionary forces stopped the train and a 45-minute clash ensued. During this time, another train arrived bearing civilian passengers. The enemy took that opportunity to take cover, and some civilians were killed in heavy fighting. After suffering 10 casualties, the government's troops were forced to flee. Our forces recovered the following supplies: 20 G-3 rifles, about 5,000 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition, and a large number of military boots.

In addition, our forces took seven wounded soldiers as prisoners. They were released after being treated by our military medics. Later, our forces proceeded to destroy two fuel tanks containing aviation gasoline. As a result, the enemy suffered a loss worth millions [currency not specified]. These are the first reports that Radio Venceremos has received from the Feliciano Ama western front. The information was sent by Commanders Misael Gallardo and Tano Guevara.

Clash Near Ciudad Barrios

PA291808 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Here is a report from the Francisco Sanchez eastern front: Clashes took place on Tuesday between members of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade and 3d Infantry Brigade troops a few kilometers north of Ciudad Barrios, on the turnoff to the village of Carolina. This occurred when our members attacked a 3d Infantry Brigade patrol. We inflicted numerous casualties upon it.

Here's to our current "Long Live the Heroes and Martyrs of 28 February 1977" political-military campaign!

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA CRITICIZES NICARAGUAN EMBASSY

PA291730 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The open-ended withdrawal of Costa Rica's ambassador to Nicaragua is further evidence of the conduct of the Sandinist government, which is detrimental to the other Central American nations, Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica said in the following recorded interview:

[Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] An official report that was confirmed today reveals that Nicaraguan troops violated Costa Rica's territorial sovereignty a few days ago, going so far as to attack Costa Rican national guardsmen. Consequently, the Costa Rican national security council, after confirming the information, recalled Costa Rica's ambassador to Nicaragua for an indefinite period of time. We consider this further evidence of the behavior of the Nicaraguan Government, which is detrimental to the democratic governments of Central America, particularly Costa Rica, whose government is truly democratic, and to Honduras, which also has a democratic regime, under the leadership of Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova. This attitude of the Nicaraguan Government contradicts all the efforts being made by the Governments of Costa Rica, Honduras, and other Central American countries to secure a peaceful resolution to the region's conflict.

[Unidentified reporter] Will this situation affect peace in the Central American region?

[Paz Barnica] Costa Rica has properly exercised its rights as a democratic, sovereign nation in facing an act of aggression by the Nicaraguan Government. Such aggression demonstrates that government's negative attitude toward democratic governments, like those of Costa Rica and Honduras, which has also been the victim of such attacks from Nicaragua. I do not believe that this will threaten peace, although it would be advisable for the Nicaraguan Government to amend its aggressive conduct before it is too late, as the other Central American governments -- Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Guatemala -- have expressed full support for the Contadora Group's peace efforts.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the decision to replace the Nicaraguan ambassador in Honduras?

[Paz Barnica] This is the Nicaraguan Government's decision, not ours. The Honduran Government, however, must take the necessary steps when a diplomatic mission abuses its diplomatic immunity to interfere openly in the internal affairs of another state, and to offend the Honduran authorities, as some Nicaraguan diplomatic personnel have done. A number of things have happened to demonstrate that the Nicaraguan Embassy in Honduras has become a publicity agency that makes use of slander and lies to discredit the Honduran Government. This can only lead to a deterioration in the two countries' relations, despite the Honduran Government's efforts to improve them. [end recording]

Ambassador Replies

PA010247 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 29 Feb 84 p 51

[Excerpt] Edwin Zablah, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras, yesterday rejected Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica's comment that his mission has become a publicity agency to discredit the Honduran Government.

He said: "My country is struggling for peace, not for war." "This mission has never failed to respect the Honduran Government and it never will. Neither will it meddle in problems that are the sole concern of the Honduran Government and people," the diplomat said.

"The revolution has adopted a model of development based on the system of a mixed economy, political pluralism, and nonalignment; consequently, we are working on this model. Each of the Central American countries is free to choose its own model of development. This is self-determination of the peoples," he said.

"We will never intervene in Honduras' internal affairs because, as a diplomatic mission, we are clearly aware of our role. However, I believe we should follow our government's foreign policy guidelines -- and we are. We do not meddle in this country's policies, because they are the responsibility of the Honduran people," the ambassador asserted. "We are careful and respectful of this, and our actions throughout these months have proven it. Nicaragua has also proven that it advocates the peace efforts being carried out by the Contadora Group," he added.

Zablah continued: "Nicaragua has stated its willingness to negotiate on the status of foreign advisers, on freezing weapons purchases, on identifying arms trafficking routes, on the signing of pacts regarding non-intervention in the internal affairs of other Central American countries, and on abstaining from carrying out actions to destabilize the Central American governments."

PAZ BARNICA VIEWS RELATIONS WITH COSTA RICA

PA292105 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1630 GMT 29 Feb 84

[By Angel Antonio Garcia Munoz]

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 29 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Honduras and Costa Rica are trying to strengthen a "democratic understanding" for peace in the Central American region, Honduran Foreign Minister Edgardo Pax Barnica told ACAN-EFE today.

The chief of Honduran foreign policy also announced the arrival in Tegucigalpa on 11 March of Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez. According to Paz Barnica, the visit stresses the "highly significant" fact that both countries are ruled by democratic systems. "We believe in alliances of democracy in favor of peace, economic progress, social change, and regional security," the Honduran minister said.

The foreign minister indicated that there are the best of relations "in the political and other spheres" with the San Jose government -- relations which would be strengthened by a "democratic understanding" between the two countries.

BRIEFS

NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR -- New Swedish Ambassador Johan Henrick Krister presented his credentials to President Roberto Suazo Cordova on 22 February. [Tegucigalpa El HERALDO in Spanish 23 Feb 84 p 15 PA]

NICARAGUA

STRAINED COSTA RICAN TIES BLAMED ON CONTRAS

PA291823 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] San Jose -- The activities of the Nicaragua-Costa Rica Mixed Commission have been interrupted by the Costa Rican Government's announcement that its delegate will withdraw from the commission. The Costa Rican Government has also hinted that it might resort to the OAS to clarify the situation on its border with Nicaragua, which has been tense because of the Somozist counterrevolutionary bands' activities. According to some observers, the suspension of the bilateral talks was a fundamental goal for the counterrevolutionary sectors, as it would assist the efforts to isolate Nicaragua's revolutionary government. Recently, Costa Rican Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano admitted that a counterrevolutionary group had attacked Nicaraguan territory from Costa Rican soil. The Costa Rican Security Council has decided to report this action to the Contadora Group.

Leonor Argueilo, Nicaraguan ambassador to San Jose, reiterated her government's willingness to maintain the best possible relations with Costa Rica. She stressed: Nicaragua regrets the conflicts and wishes to have the best possible relations with its neighbors. She recalled that such problems will not be resolved as long as counterrevolutionary groups are stationed in Costa Rica. Mrs Arguello said: The whole world knows the source of the attacks on Nicaragua. She was referring to a counterrevolutionary attack perpetrated last Wednesday by the so-called Third Path Movement. The ambassador stressed that it is necessary for Costa Rica to watch its border with Nicaragua, to render counterrevolutionary actions impossible, and to avert conflicts with neighboring countries.

Foreign Ministry Communique

PA291620 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 28 February]

[Text] Since 16 February, Sandinist People's Army patrols on guard duty along the Costa Rican border have been harassed by counterrevolutionary groups coming from the area of Conventillos in Costa Rica.

At 2310 on 18 February, a group of 50 counterrevolutionaries attacked Hill 169, 1.2 km from the Nicaraguan border post at El Naranjo, with .30-cal and .50-cal machine guns from the Conventillos area in Costa Rica. The purpose of the attack was to take the hill, but the counterrevolutionaries failed in their attempt.

Between 1145 and 1200 on 22 February, an undetermined number of counterrevolutionaries stationed at Conventillos attacked the same positon with rifle and mortar fire.

While reporting these events, the Nicaraguan Government stresses that situations like this will continue to take place as long as the counterrevolutionary groups that operate from Costa Rica continue to serve the CIA, which finances, organizes, and directs them, and which promotes tension and problems in the relations between our two governments, trying to impede our government's efforts to preserve peace in the region.

WFTU GREETS WORKERS ON SANDINO ANNIVERSARY

PA292300 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Feb 84 p 3

[Letter from the WFTU Secretariat to the "Nicaraguan workers" on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Cesar Sandino, dated in Prague on 7 February]

[Text] On the occasion of the 50th anniversary on 21 February of the murder of Augusto Cesar Sandino, the "general of free men," Nicaraguan hero, and symbol of the national liberation struggles of the Latin American peoples, the WFTU, on behalf of its 206 million members, sends its warmest greetings and solidarity to Nicaragua's workers and heroic people. The federation also reiterates its militant support for the just struggles toward the construction of a prosperous homeland and for the defense of Nicaraguan sovereignty, now that Nicaragua's workers and people are entering a new stage of consolidating the revolutionary process.

The same forces that in 1934 planned Sandino's murder and gave arms to the murderer, Anastasio Somoza, and which later installed him as a bloodthirsty tyrant, that is to say, U.S. imperialism, now threaten and conspire against Nicaraguan sovereignty, trying to drown in blood the revolutionary process chosen by the people at the cost of countless sacrifices and human lives. The instrument has not changed, either; it's Somozism, the bulwark of the counterrevolution, which is supported by the region's dictatorial and reactionary regimes.

The unscrupulous policy of war and aggression sponsored by the current U.S. Administration -- and realized, with tragic consequences, in the armed invasion of small Grenada -- is none other than the determination to impose at all costs control over entire nations by the big transnational corporations that had in Somoza and his family their staunchest Nicaraguan allies. For this reason, the intensification of the U.S. presence in Central America through the "Big Pine II" maneuvers and the logistical support for El Salvador's genocidal regime constitute a grave danger to the peace and security of the region's peoples and to world peace in general.

Just as the United States has been unable to erase the memory of Sandino, whose banner waves proudly today in free Nicaragua, it will be unable to stop the struggle of the peoples for their final liberation.

We wish the Nicaraguan people, and especially its workers and unions, which we are honored to have in our ranks, the greatest success in this hard struggle.

For this, you can count on the solidarity of the WFTU. The planned International Trade Union Conference for Peace in Central America [Conferencia Sindical Internacional por la Paz en Centroamerica], which will be held in Managua in April, will be an expression of full support for your heroic struggle by the world's workers.

Prague, 7 February 1984

WFTU Secretariat

RAMIREZ ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, DOMESTIC POLICY

AU010950 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 28 Feb 84 p 6

["Exclusive" interview given by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, to BORBA and VECERNJE NOVOSTI and "prepared for publication by Milovan Jaukovic"; place and date of interview not given -- first three paragraphs are BORBA introduction]

[Text] The participation of nearly all social strata in overthrowing Somoza's dictatorship was certainly one of the basic characteristics of the Nicaraguan revolution and the main explanation for its victory. Great credit for creating such a broad front and for founding political pluralism as one of the basic principles of the Sandinist revolution and the new society are attributed to a large extent to members of the Terceristas (one of the three groups in the Sandinist National Liberation Front), whose founder was Sergio Ramirez Mercado, 40, now a member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

His associates say that this tested revolutionary -- known under the pseudonym "Doctor" among a group of "12 intellectuals," who is a prominent Central American novelist, and a lawyer who never practiced his profession -- has never touched a weapon, but that he defeated Somoza with ideas. Sergio Ramirez and his followers believed that the dictatorship could be overthrown only by the broadest possible front in which all citizens who love freedom, justice, and democracy would participate. The development of events confirmed the correctness of this orientation.

Sergio Ramirez gladly responded to the request to answer in an exclusive interview to BORBA and VECERNJE NOVOSTI, as he said, the accusations against the Sandinists -- which he called part of a plot in the country and abroad -- because this is the best way to see where today's Nicaragua is going.

We are No One's Test Case

[Unidentified reporter] Let us begin, Comrade Ramirez, with those most serious attacks and accusations emanating from Washington -- that you are exporting revolution, that Nicaragua is a test case for Cuban and Soviet penetration into Central America.

[Ramirez] We are exporting nothing but examples. It appears paradoxical perhaps, but the main initiator of revolutions in this part of the world is, in fact, our great neighbor from the north. The United States has created and supported dictatorships like Somoza's, which are causes of extreme poverty, need, unemployment, and unprecedented exploitation; the result is the same: revolutionary agitation. And this is not the result of the subversive activity of Nicaragua and Sandinists, but of injustice.

[Reporter] The Sandinist leadership constantly stresses its readiness for talks on peace in Central America, while the Washington administration claims that you have never, in fact, wanted to negotiate.

[Ramirez] So far we have usually not bothered to reply to such unfounded accusations, because this is a peculiar Rashomon-like attitude. However, the truth is quite different. Whenever we have met with Reagan's emissaries, advisers, or secretaries of state, they have always greeted us in an extremely arrogant way. It is no dialogue between statesmen, but rather a series of attacks, accusations, and endless talk as to what we must change, followed by threats if we do not agree to do this.

I will mention an example. When George Shultz received representatives of the diplomatic missions to the United Nations after he had replaced Alexander Haig, he shook hands with all of them. However, when Miguel D'Escoto, our minister of foreign affairs, was announced, Shultz dropped his arm and refused to shake hands. Nonetheless, D'Escoto asked him whether the two governments could meet and talk, but Shultz turned his back on him without saying a word. So far we have sent five peace proposals, but all remain unanswered. From their point of view we deserve only annihilation. Why should they waste time negotiating with such a small country.

Chances for Peace

[Reporter] Following the latest peace initiatives, is there a better chance for peace in Central America, for constructive talks?

[Ramirez] There will be no peace in this part of the world as long as the United States supports counterrevolutionaries, as long as they have military advisers in El Salvador, Honduras....And despite this, we are prepared to support all initiatives and efforts aimed at talks on peace in the region so as to bring about a situation in which the United States leaves the peoples of Central America to solve their own problems. However, there can be no talks about the political and social system and the revolution, nor will our sovereignty and independence be a point of any treaty.

However, regardless of all this, I must say that Nicaragua has nothing against the American people. Americans are always welcome in our country, but only if they come as tourists, without arms and Marines.

[Reporter] You are being increasingly more frequently reproached by parts of the Nonaligned Movement who say that you support a "natural alliance," that you have submitted to the USSR?

[Ramirez] This impression is wrong and is probably the result of our strongly expressed anti-imperialism on all occasions. Who brought the Somozas to power; who supported them? Today, the main threat to Nicaragua's independence and future comes from the north -- not from Cuba or the USSR. Nonalignment is our foreign political orientation, and we will always struggle to implement the Nonaligned Movement's policy, while respecting its founding principles. We will also try to establish as close links as possible with the member-countries of the movement. Accordingly, this year we will open embassies in New Delhi and Belgrade.

[Reporter] Let us return to the domestic situation. The left attacks you, saying that you have betrayed the revolution, and the right attacks you over alleged Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism.

[Ramirez] Always the same old stories. For the purists on the left we are capitalists, and for capitalists we are communists. The problem is simply that they have lost power. Our revolution is not a copy of any other. We do not follow any old model, but rather we are trying to build our Nicaraguan model because we do not believe that Nicaragua's problems can be resolved by copying others.

[Reporter] It is evident that nearly everyone wants to align you, to label you. Who are the Sandinists after all?

[Ramirez] It can be said that we are the people who 4 years after overthrowing Somoza still feel a revolutionary ecstasy. I hope that we will feel like this for the next 10 years, because we do not want our revolution to become orthodox. The Sandinist revolution is neither Marxist nor Christian. This is a revolution composed of all ideologies, one that believes in pluralism and that applies it.

Long-Term Orientation

[Reporter] A mixed economy and political pluralism are the bases of Nicaragua's development today. Is this a long-term orientation of the Sandinists?

[Ramirez] A mixed economy and pluralism are the reality of today's Nicaragua. It is correct that we recently nationalized a certain number of enterprises and the property of those who did not respect the law and who were working against the interests of the state and people. However, the principle of a mixed economy has not been destroyed because 65 percent of enterprises and property today are in private hands. This year, we will issue certificates to owners guaranteeing that there will be no expropriation in the next 2 decades as long as they respect the agreed rules of the game.

[Reporter] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua has announced presidential and parliamentary elections for November. Can you tell us something more precise about the future sociopolitical system?

[Ramirez] This, first of all, will not be the one-party system which many people fear, although we do not believe that this would not be democracy. The development of revolution, together with Nicaragua's geopolitical position and the relationship between internal and outside forces, has made political pluralism and parliamentary democracy unavoidable in Nicaragua's development today and tomorrow. Therefore, it will be a combination of a presidential and a parliamentary system with Nicaragua's specific characteristics. The elections will be completely free and open so that all people will be able to participate -- the parties of both the left and the right.

PARTY LEADERS DISCUSS ELECTIONS ON ROUND TABLE

PA291903 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 0230 GMT 28 Feb 84

[The "Political Debates" round table held by the Nicaraguan Patriotic Front of the Revolution, featuring Gustavo Tablada, coordinator of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution, FPR; Cesar Delgadillo Mechado, representative of the Popular Social Christian Party, PPSC; Reinaldo Payan, representative of the FSLN; and Adolfo Evertz, representative of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, PSN, at Radio Noticias' studios in Managua -- live]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified moderator] The opposition leaders have said recently that they do not trust the electoral process, indicating that the necessary conditions for truly free and democratic elections do not exist in Nicaragua. They have referred to the demands contained in the document that they issued on 24 December 1983, including an end to the state of emergency and to censorship, greater freedom to mobilize and to organize as political parties, and separation of the state and the party in power, which is the FSLN. I think that it would be interesting for Reinaldo Payan, the FSLN representative, to discuss this tonight.

[Payan] We have made ourselves quite clear. The laws decreeing an amnesty and a pardon have been promulgated and Nicaragua's doors have been opened to all who were deceived or who were used to isolate the country. The broadened decree of 21 February specifies that all Nicaraguans may return to the country as of 4 May and may participate in all political activities, within the framework of the revolution.

However, our people and our National Directorate will never sit down to talk with the counterrevolutionary leaders, who filled their pockets with dollars at the cost of bloodshed and kidnappings of many of our peasants, workers and youth.

Thus, the opposition plan for reconciliation deserved no response from our National Directorate, for we felt that it was not a feasible plan. On the contrary, had we ag eed to it, we would have incurred our people's hatred.

So, this plan for reconciliation has not and will not be taken into account in Nicaragua. We feel that the political opening offered here is broader than was expected by many, and we further think that those very groups that demanded an electoral process, with dates and an electoral calendar -- which have, in fact, been specified -- are now beginning to voice additional disagreements. Now that elections and a political opening have been implemented in Nicaragua, to include the free participation of all social sectors and political parties, the very groups that insisted on these things are now making additional demands and are saying the necessary conditions do not currently exist.

We know that this means that we will have to devise a campaign that works to defend the electoral process, which imperialism has tried to discredit, and to legitimize this electoral process in Nicaragua. Our people should not permit themselves to be confused by this.

[Moderator] What comments would the FPR leaders like to make, on the resolutions that were made on Sunday by the Independent Liberal Party [PLI]; which has broken away from the FPR? The PLI's leaders have proclaimed a third political line in Nicaragua, saying that they are no longer a part of the FPR alliance, and that they will not join the alliance represented by the Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero Democratic Coordinating Board, either. What does Cesar Delgadillo Machado of the PPSC have to say about the PLI resolution?

[Delgadillo] We respect the position taken by the new directorate of the PLI when it broke away from the FPR alliance, but we believe that the alliance, though based upon the organizations that comprise it, is greater than what the organizations themselves can do. We are sorry that we no longer have the PLI in the alliance, but we feel that the fact that they have separated from it does not change the fact that it will continue; it contains three strong and revolutionary parties, which are capable of continuing the alliance and of pursuing its fundamental plans, which are the force behind the revolutionary process that began on 19 July 1979.

[Moderator] What does the FSLN, represented tonight by Reinaldo Payan, say?

[Payan] We must tell our people that at the level of the FPR's national coordinator we have received no official communication from the new PLI leadership about this decision. Statements to the news media are one thing, but the FPR national coordinator has not officially received such an announcement nor has it been discussed at that level. We believe that the FPR, as a political alliance of revolutionary and anti-imperialist parties that oppose U.S. intervention and support the strengthening of the revolution, will not disappear or become weak. Internally, the withdrawal of the PLI does not mean weakness of the revolution's progressive and revolutionary forces. Perhaps, at the international level, it may be used by U.S. imperialism and the news media to say that the revolutionary forces are weak. However, we must tell our people that any party in the FPR was there of its own accord. It was not forced to be there.

[Moderator] We will now hear Adolfo Evertsz of the PSN.

[Evertz] We in the PSN respect the PLI's internal situation. We were not surprised by it, because it was public knowledge that there were two factions in the PLI.

They are two politically opposite factions, and are the result of the fact that a revolution always produces a rearrangement of political and ideological trends, expressed not only among the parties but within the ranks of each party as well. We wish to express our concern about and our respect for the PLI's internal situation and we hope that the final solution will be the consolidation of the PLI's internal unity, so that it will be the leftist and not the rightist forces in our country that are strengthened. We must also point out something else. The FPR was not established for the purpose of participating in elections. Instead, it signifies the various leftist parties' voluntary political commitment to minimal agreements on a social, political, and economic program that we decided to promote.

[Moderator] It seems that the PLI is preparing for the coming elections. It has also announced that it will run alone and that it will choose its own presidential candidate and candidates for the constituent assembly. Would Cesar Delgadillo like to comment on this?

[Delgadillo] We can see that they have decided to go it alone in the 4 November 1984 elections. We have said that we are discussing how we will participate in those elections. We are holding talks with the PSN and the FSLN. Those talks will be discussed and confirmed in a directorate meeting that we will hold in either March or April.

[Moderator] We have a telephone call. Let's listen.

[PLI member Juan Manuel Gutierrez] Payan of the FSLN has said nothing new. Each of the parties that were in the FPR alliance had its own policy, [words indistinct]; we governed ourselves independently. We were there to unite the views of all Nicaraguan democratic parties on specific points and common objectives, but each party had its own program. The FSLN told us that the National Directorate had decided that each party in the alliance would take part individually in the elections. We took up the challenge, and decided to go it alone in the elections. Since we would be participating in the elections individually, we could not continue to belong to the FPR. We could not be involved in a campaign alone and [words indistinct]. We had to disconnect ourselves totally from the FPR so that our party could launch its campaign alone. The greatest goal of all parties is to attain power, with which they can carry out their programs. [Words indistinct] to withdraw from it. The FSLN notified us that each party should go to the elections alone. Therefore, we decided to take up that challenge, and to leave the FPR and participate in the elections alone [words indistinct]

[Moderator] You have heard Juan Manuel Gutierrez, one of the oldest leaders of the PLI, who has called to comment on the views expressed in this program. We noted that Gutierrez stressed the remarks of Reinaldo Payan, the FSLN representative. FPR coordinator Gustavo Tablada wants to refer to Gutierrez' statement.

[Tablada] I would like to refer to the remarks by Juan Gutierrez and to some other points on this same problem. First of all, we must remind our people that at the outset of the year, the FPR issued official statements indicating that its member parties were free to participate in the elections however they saw fit, in accordance with their interests, programs, and principles. That is what each party is doing.

We must also mention something that Companero Evertsz said, which is that the FPR was never created for electroal purposes. The FPR's interests go beyond that, because even though the Nicaraguan election will be a very significant event, our organization's commitment to the revolution goes beyond any electoral process. We have given the electoral process all of the importance that such an event deserves for the destiny of the revolutionary process.

[Moderator] Opposition circles have been insistently mentioning the name of Arturo Cruz as a possible opposition candidate, as a candidate for a united opposition bloc in the 4 November elections. However, a point in the electoral bill prohibits those who are out of the country from being presidential or vice presidential candidates. We would like to know the real situation. Could Arturo Cruz be a presidential candidate or is there an obstacle to this? Cesar Delgadillo will answer.

[Delgadillo] All Nicaraguans who are covered by the amnesty decrees can very easily come to the country and serve as candidates for those organizations that nominate them. We don't see any problem in his returning and serving as a candidate for the Democratic Coordinating Board if it so decides.

[Moderator] Could Delgadillo's statement be interpreted as willingness to eliminate that point in the electoral bill? Reinaldo Payan, the FSLN representative, is also a member of the State Council, so he might shed some light on this controversial point.

[Payan] It has been said here that Arturo Cruz can enter Nicaragua. There is no trial pending against him. He is a Nicaraguan who is abroad and who has maintained a dissident position toward the revolution but who may now enter with ease, just as more than 700 Nicaraguans have entered from the north and the south, from Miami and Guatemala. About 700 people have taken advantage of the Government Junta's decree that was issued in December 1983. There is no reason why Cruz can't come and head the opposition in the electoral process. However, we have seen remarks by him in the media in which he has expressed continued reservations about the electoral process.

[Moderator] Internationally, we have seen two positions on Nicaragua's electoral announcements. There is Washington's position, which is one of total distrust of the Nicaraguan electoral process. Secretary of State George Shultz has said that he does not see the necessary conditions for free elections in Nicaragua. Yet, we see that a different position is held by the leaders of the Socialist International. Do you think that these two international positions will have any effect on the opposition political parties or on our national politics in general? Here is Adolfo Evertsz of the PSN.

[Evertz] It is no secret that Shultz' position has also been expressed in statements by the ultrarightist sector of the Democratic Conservative Party [PCD] in Nicaragua. These are the positions of the sector led by Miriam Arguello, which is making real efforts to sabotage the electoral process. They don't want people to participate because they are aware that they stand against the tide of history and have little to do with Nicaragua's future. They think, therefore, that it is more dignified to withdraw from the process than to face the new reality in Nicaragua.

In contrast, we think that the position of the Socialist International -- as outlined in the interview with Carlos Andres Perez published by LA PRENSA last week -- on the role to be played by the political parties in this country, both by those of us who defend the revolutionary process and those who are at odds with it or oppose it, is sensible, serious, and mature. I personally think that the rightist parties in Nicaragua will pay more attention to or will take more account of this position, expressed recently by the Socialist International, than of the other position, which really goes against history and actually has no place in our country's current situation.

[Moderator] Gustavo Tablada is asking for the floor now, and we would like to add a new element that we think is floating in the political air. Amid the contentious issues, we have heard a complaint from the opposition parties that they will have little time to wage an election campaign, while, according to them, some parties have been campaigning for several years.

I think Delgadillo said during an interview with "The Thought" newscast that the election campaign itself will last 3 months. How long will the political campaign last, Delgadillo?

[Delgadillo] We said in that interview that given the timetables -- the discussion of the electoral bill at the State Council, the preparations that must be made to install the Supreme Electoral Council, and all of those things -- we estimated that the campaign would last 3-5 months. We personally think that a very large, a very long campaign, would be tiresome. We think that 3-5 months are enough for a political party to carry out a well-organized and well-timed campaign, to express its political thinking, to announce its platform, to present its candidates, and to outline its ideology.

[Moderator] We are running out of time and we are told that PSN President Luis Sanchez is on telephone line 71-707. Let's see what he has to say to the citizens.

[Sanchez] At noon, I heard Companero Ignacio Briones Torres and later Companero Juan Manuel Gutierrez suggest that the PLI is withdrawing from the FDR because the FSLN has announced that it would run alone in the elections and that, consequently, the FDR alliance will be dissolved. For history's sake, I would like to explain the following:

Since a majority trend against unity within the FPR was obviously developing in the PLI, the FSLN suggested to the parties in the alliance that it would be advisable to adopt a consensus decision to suspend the FDR for the duration of the electoral period. This was discussed at length and we concurred with the position of the PPSC, the PSN, and the FSLN that, regardless of whether a party or sector withdrew from the FDR, this alliance, which is strategic and has nothing to do with a short-term issue or a passing phenomenon like elections, should remain in operation.

ARDE COMMUNIQUE ON HONDURAN BORDER VIOLATION

PA290435 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Feb 84 p 4

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Armed Forces, ARDE, from the "mountains of Americsque" on 26 February]

[Text] We report to the democratic peoples and governments of the world.

On Wednesday, 22 February, a 25-man squad from the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Column -- which is active in the mountains of northern Nicaragua, in Somoto, Esteli, Chinandega, and Leon Departments -- accidentally and involuntarily crossed the border of our fraternal country, Honduras. The squad was strategically changing its position in Nicaraguan territory to fight the totalitarian and communist regime that is presently occupying our country. The squad was intercepted and disarmed by the Honduran Army, which zealously guards its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Their weapons, ammunition, and other military equipment were confiscated by the Honduran officials. However, the members of the column, who are free and democratic fighters, were released. They later returned to our operations center in Nicaragua. Unfortunately, seven ARDE members were arrested. They are now in San Lorenzo, Valle Department, under the Honduran officials' protection. We wish to assert how grave it would be to deport these seven fighters who struggle for the liberation of their homeland. If they were to fall into the hands of the totalitarian Managua regime, their valuable lives would be uselessly lost, much to the sorrow of their relatives and friends, and to the members of our organization. We hope that on the conclusion of the investigation the Honduran officials will release those who are struggling for peace and democracy in Central America.

FURTHER ON RADIO REBELDE, LIBERACION MERGER

FL291654 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Radio Rebelde and Radio Liberacion will be merged into one station that will transmit 24 hours daily starting the last week in March. The programming of the new station will consist essentially of news, sports, and music, although it will also offer some drama.

This announcement was made by Nivaldo Herrera, president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television [ICRT], at a meeting with representatives of the 530 employees of the two radio stations. Herrera was accompanied by Mercedes de la Cruz, first party secretary, Plaza de la Revolucion Municipality; Silvio Alvarez, ICRT vice president; and other officials. He stated that with the merger, some equipment will be freed that will be used to strengthen the transmissions of Radio Reloj. He added that some of the programs of the stations to be merged will be transferred to Radio Progreso; the radio audience will be informed in advance of these transfers.

CASTRO'S ACTIVITIES, COMMENTS IN SPAIN REPORTED

For the Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA report on Fidel Castro's activities and comments during his brief visit to Madrid, including his meetings with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and other Spanish officials and his comments on the situation in Central America, see the Spain section of the 1 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

FMLN'S ZAMORA CRITICIZES U.S. AID TO EL SALVADOR

PA010408 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Ruben Zamora, member of the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission, has asserted that the problems in his country and the Central American region will not be solved with dollars alone. He said that the U.S. Government's policy toward Central America, far from solving the regional problems, makes them worse and increases the opposition of many U.S. sectors toward U.S. interventionist plans.

During a message broadcast by the guerrilla station Radio Venceremos, Ruben Zamora said that the U.S. Government's million-dollar aid to the Salvadoran Armed Forces will not curb the irrepressible rebel advance or raise the morale of Alvaro Magana's army.

GUATEMALA STARTS WORLDWIDE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

FL291537 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1234 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Guatemala's Human Rights Commission has begun a worldwide campaign dealing with the thousands of Guatemalans who are missing and for the cessation of summary executions by special courts. The campaign started this week in Guatemala and simultaneously at the commission's offices in Mexico and in regional offices in Latin America, the United States, and Europe.

The humanitarian organization stated that under Guatemala's military dictatorship, the condition of having missing persons constitutes the total negation of each and every known human right, as stipulated not only in domestic but in international law as well. The commission said that over the last 17 years, 35,000 cases of missing persons have been recorded in Guatemala. This is the work of successively repressive military forces, and none of the cases have been investigated nor have the perpetrators been punished.

NICARAGUA'S D'ESCOTO SENDS SHULTZ PROTEST NOTE

FL291304 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has accused the U.S. Government of emplacing a military blockade against the nation in open violation of international law norms. In a note sent yesterday to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto referred to attacks made by small Piranha-type boats which have been supplied by the CIA to counterrevolutionary forces operating in Honduras and Costa Rica.

NICARAGUA'S ARMY COMMANDER NOTES CONTRA LOSSES

FL292038 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Commander Hugo Torres, chief of the Political Directorate of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS], has said in Managua that counterrevolutionary groups attacking the northern regions of Nicaragua from Honduras suffered notable losses at the hands of the EPS.

During the Sandinist leader's press conference, he stated that some of the counter-revolutionary leaders believe that the armed struggle against the Nicaraguan people lacks perspective, but that the counterrevolutionary leaders, the CIA, and the United States -- those behind the counterrevolutionaries -- have not abandoned their intentions of strangling the Sandinist revolution.

COLOMBIAN GUERRILLA BURIAL PROCESSION NOTED

PA231409 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] A large crowd accompanied the funeral procession for Jaime Bateman Cayon, the late leader of the Colombian guerrilla organization 19 April Movement, in the city of Santa Marta, north of Bogota. The guerrilla leader was buried together with his comrades-in-arms Nelly Rivas Rebolledo and Conrado Marin, with whom he died in a plane crash in April 1983 in the San Blas mountain range in Panama. Their remains were found 1 month ago.

According to the media, stores, banks, and schools in Santa Marta closed their doors as the funeral procession passed, in spontaneous demonstration of mourning.

PERUVIAN PROSECUTOR'S HOME RAIDED BY POLICEMEN

PA291900 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Feb 84

[Text] Jorge Segarra, prosecutor at the Ayacucho superior court, has identified two policemen who broke into his home in Ayacucho, and has indicated that he will go to Lima to report the lack of guarantees for government activities in Ayacucho.

The policemen tried to force the lock of the prosecutor's home, where he keeps documents on missing persons, cases of torture, and drug traffic.

Prosecutor Segarra decided to travel to Lima after the military authorities would not allow him to inspect a house that was reported to be a torture center.

Meanwhile, reports from Lima reveal that Peruvian Air Force personnel have assumed control of operations in the country's 32 air terminals, in view of the strike that some 3,500 airport workers began Monday to demand wage increases.

DEATH OF PERUVIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT REPORTED

PA272005 Havana International Service in Quechua 2200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Peru -- After more than 10 days of agony, and despite the efforts of physicians, Lima university student Juan Francisco [name indistinct] has died in a Lima hospital. The young man was wounded by a tear gas bomb fired at point-blank range by police during a peaceful student demonstration.

GUYANA'S BURNHAM ADDRESSES ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

Advocates Peace, Disarmament

FL231655 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] During the 14th anniversary of Guyanese independence, President Forbes Burnham said: Guyana unites its voice with those of the developed and developing states that advocate peace in the world, general and complete disarmament, the prohibition of nuclear weapons, and a halt to the arms race. Guyana, he said, wants to see the large sums spent on the arms race devoted to improving the people's standard of living. He added that the objective of the revolution in his country is to build a society free of exploitation. Burnham urged his people to use every domestic resource to consolidate the country's political and economic independence.

Implicates U.S. in Murder Plot

PA251722 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Guyanese President Forbes Burnham has insinuated that the United States is involved in a plot to assassinate him and to destabilize the economy of Guyana. Burnham spoke at a ceremony in Georgetown to mark the 14th anniversary of the Guyanese Constitution. He said that Washington knows about the plot, because four individuals from Guyana with Canadian citizenship were arraigned in U.S. courts on arms trafficking charges. The weapons were to be used to kill Burnham.

Burnham told foreign newsmen who suggested that Guyana is ready for a coup d'etat that his country is not Grenada, a country where human rights are being violated with impunity. He said: An attempt was made to compare us to El Salvador, a country that has been like hell on earth since 1980, where more than 30,000 people have been killed, and where, despite this, the government continues to receive millions of dollars in military aid.

Burnham also criticized governments that maintain relations with South Africa and that accept the policy of racial segregation pursued by Pretoria.

Finally, the Guyanese president commented on the economic pressures directed at his country. He said that loans are being denied to the Georgetown government for political reasons.

BRIEFS

ATHLETES HONORED -- A ceremony to honor the best Cuban athletes of 1983 has been held at the headquarters of the Communist Party of Cuba. The event was headed by Antonio Perez Herrero, alternate member of the Politburo; Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers; and Jose Felipe Carneado, chief of the Central Committee's Education, Culture, and Science Department. [Excerpt] [Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 84 FL]

EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUMMIT UNDER WAY IN ST LUCIA

Trinidad Visa Requirements Discussed

FL291617 Bridgetown CANA in English 1539 GMT 29 Feb 84

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 29 (CANA) -- The seven-nation Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is to make joint representation to Trinidad and Tobago to seek some ease in the visa requirement for Grenadian nationals wishing to visit Trinidad.

This was announced here today by Antigua's Hugh Marshall, chairman of the second meeting of OECS ministers of foreign affairs which ended in Castries last night. He said that most of the matters which came before the meeting were either put off pending more indepth investigations, or referred to the OECS heads of government summit which opens here today.

On the question of Trinidad's four month old stipulation that Grenadian nationals wishing to visit the neighbouring state must first obtain a visa, "we thought that the present situation needs some easing up for Grenadian nationals who have had a long standing relationship with Trinidad," Marshall told CANA. "We have decided to approach the Trinidad Government jointly, and bring our concerns on this matter to their attention," he added.

On a proposal for joint OECS diplomatic representation overseas, Marshall said: "We took a decision to ask member governments to send in their comments on their position on joint representation in respect of the Ottawa and London missions and on the question of an OECS presence in the Far East." He added that by April 15 this year the secretariat should have their responses in time for the next foreign ministers meeting scheduled for the latter part of May.

The ministers also thought more work needed to be done to concrete relations with international institutions such as the Organisation of American States and the Economic Commission for Latin America. "The secretariat has been asked to continue their consultations with organisations such as the OAS and ECLA as to the question of administrative costs involved..." Marshall said.

The foreign ministers also discussed the question of fisheries as it related to the Law of the Sea, Marshall said, and agreed that the secretariat will seek technical advice from the Commonwealth Secretariat's legal department. "One of their legal personnel will be in the region in the next few days and he will be asked to give the secretariat the necessary assistance on this question, which is extremely complicated," the Antigua minister said.

Marine boundaries have not been clearly defined among OECS member states, Marshall said, "and we need to meet to decide how we structure this mechanism."

Compton on OECS Membership

FL010052 Bridgetown CANA in English 2316 GMT 29 Feb 84

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 29 (CANA) -- St Lucia's prime minister, John Compton, today said that regional countries seeking membership in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) should in future be required to adhere to the democratic principles and the rule of law of the OECS Charter.

Speaking at the opening of the fourth summit meeting of OECS heads of government here, Compton said this would help to ensure peace and security in the region.

Referring to the organization's participation in last October's U.S.-led military intervention in Grenada, Compton said the operation had sent forth the work to friend and foe that there is only one way to political power in the Eastern Caribbean. "That is by the acceptance of policies of a political party by the peoples as manifested through the ballot box in free and fair elections," he said. The Grenada invasion was to remove a radical military junta that had seized power after killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Bishop had also seized power in a coup in 1979.

Compton said that those who under the guise of "ideological pluralism" were seeking to introduce into the region "seeds of international conflict and violate the sanctity of the democratic process," will have to reckon with the determination of a united people, under the umbrella of the organization.

He said that to reinforce this determination, the seven OECS countries have been engaged in discussions with Barbados on the mechanics of establishing a regional defence force. "It is hoped that during these series of meetings scheduled here this week, these arrangements will be finalized," he added.

But Compton stressed that regional peace and security should also be ensured in other forms. "We must restate in our charter our adherence to the democratic principles and to the rule of law and make such adherence a condition of membership of this organization," he said. He added: "The writs of our courts must run in every country covered by this organization and in this regard, we look forward to the day when the Government of Grenada will re-enter into the judicial system of the East Caribbean." Grenada set up its own judiciary after the March 1979 coup that brought the former People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) to power.

Compton, in suggesting possible areas of cooperation between the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados, said the idea of an appeal court to serve Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean should be exploited by the OECS Secretariat. He also said that with the present "high profile" of the OECS and in view of the demand international issues now make upon the region, the need for effective foreign representation was now a matter of the utmost urgency.

Compton identified the need for functional cooperation, noting the size of member states should be no excuse to deny youth the opportunity to compete in international sport. He said it was not too early to put their sights on the 1988 olympics and organize an umbrella Olympic Committee whose task will be to put an OECS Olympic team on the field by 1988, and have an OECS flag flown with those of other sporting nations of the world. "This organization is...our shield and our protector. Let us therefore preserve, protect, and strengthen it so that under the shadow of its wings, our people can live in peace and security," the St Lucia prime minister said.

Brathwaite Thanks Summit

FL010036 Bridgetown CANA in English 0017 GMT 1 Mar 84

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 29 (CANA) -- Head of Grenada's interim government, Nicholas Brathwaite, said today last October's U.S.-led invasion was a "bold and brave decision" for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and history would applaud the move. Brathwaite was speaking here at the fourth heads of government summit of the seven-nation sub-regional grouping. The OECS played a leading role in the invasion that ousted a military council that had seized power in a bloody coup.

The OECS, meeting at this level for the first time since the intervention, was told by the head of the interim government that the people of Grenada wished to place on record their gratitude to the governments and people of the OECS for the action, which rescued them. "I am pleased to inform you that a new atmosphere now pervades the land. Hope has replaced despair and the people now enjoy a freedom of expression which had been denied them for a long time," Brathwaite told the summit.

He said that the interim administration was committed to providing an opportunity for the people to elect a government of their choice in free and fair elections before the end of 1984. However, he cautioned that elections may not bring an end to Grenada's problems. "I do not want to create the impression that Grenada's problems would disappear as a result of those elections, so I ask for your continued prayers and guidance for our people and the future," Brathwaite said.

He pledged his administration's support for regional organizations, particularly the OECS, adding that "as we move together, let us dedicate ourselves to strengthening the ties that bind us, and commit ourselves to the attainment of peace and development in the region."

Other heads of government present at the meeting were St Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton, Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, St Kitts-Nevis' Dr Kennedy Simmonds, and Chief of Montserrat John Osborne. Minister of Agriculture Vincent Beache is representing St Vincent and Minister Without Portfolio Hugh Marshall, Antigua and Barbuda.

Also present at today's meeting were Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretary-General Roderick Rainford; heads of OECS diplomatic missions in London, Canada, and the United States; and the head of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and the OECS economic arm in Antigua.

Charles, Simmonds Address Meeting

FL010215 Bridgetown CANA in English 0035 GMT 1 Mar 84

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Feb 29 (CANA) -- Chairman of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Dominica's Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, says member states are today faced with a serious responsibility of preparing for a profitable future of sound investment for their people. She said that some of the issues which will prepare the ground work for a strategy will come up for discussion at the fourth OECS summit which opened here today. "We will discuss a range of issues which epitomize bread and butter for our small islands," she told the opening session.

Miss Charles said: "While we look back on our successes, our weaknesses are even more before us," adding: "We can only turn these into strength if we remain cognisant of our interdependence."

The OECS chairman said that economic experts on the North-South dialogue continuously stress the interdependence of the world economy, making a case for collective action even in times of prosperity and growth. "But more so in a crisis situation, when a case for joint action become compelling," she said.

St Kitts-Nevis Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds, addressing an OECS summit for the first time, called for strategies to assist in the full development of young people in the region. "There is an urgent need to address our minds to the training of our young people in areas relevant to our development, so we can build confidence and efficiency which will equip them to become entrepreneurs of the Caribbean," Dr Simmonds said.

He felt young people were the ones most easily swayed by criticism, the lack of development, and ideologies foreign to the region, pointing out that it was the duty of leaders to take serious notice of the problems of young people in the islands.

Dr Simmonds, whose country was recently admitted to membership in the organisation following the severing of political ties with Britain late last year, described his country's advent into independence as "a baptism by fire."

He said that there was the immediate need to participate in the momentous decision to assist the sister nation of Grenada through its very difficult times. This was a reference to the U.S.-led multinational military intervention in Grenada to topple a left-wing junta that had seized power, killing Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. Dr Simmonds said that his government was pleased to have been able to take the decision which was bolstered in anticipation of the support subsequently received from the people of his country.

GRENADA

CANADA WILLING TO HELP FINANCE AIRPORT

FL291216 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Mar 84

[Text] In St George's, the chairman of the Grenada's Interim Advisory Council, Nicholas Brathwaite, says Canada wants to help finance the completion of the Point Salinas airport. Work on the airport was halted by the U.S.-led military intervention last October. At the time, the airport was being built by Cuban engineers and laborers. The new Grenada Government says it needs $24 million to complete the airport. Mr Brathwaite says Canadian officials told him of their interest at a recent World Bank meeting in Washington, D.C.

BULGARIAN CP DAILY INTERVIEWS CHEDDI JAGAN

AU281431 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 27 Feb 84 p 7

[Text] Cheddi Jagan, secretary general of the People's Progressive Party of Guyana [PPP] recently made a brief business trip to our country, and was kind enough to answer the questions of Volodya Stratiev, representative of the Editorial Board.

Stratiev: Comrade Jagan, the world situation has recently become radically aggravated through the fault of the United States. This can be felt here in Europe, in the Middle and Far East, in Central America, and in the Caribbean, where Guyana is. How do you evaluate the present foreign policy course of the Reagan administration, especially after the U.S. aggression against the tiny Caribbean state of Grenada?

Jagan: The Reagan administration is trying to reverse the course of history. This attempt has particularly strengthened recently -- Reagan is trying to change the world balance of power in favor of capitalism and imperialism. At the same time he is keeping his distance from the more moderate policy followed to a certain extent by the Carter administration. The present President not only accused Carter of acting "softly" and allowing the "USSR to lead the game," but is also doing everything possible to revert international relations to what they were during the "Cold War." This line was particularly demonstrated with the invasion of Grenada, which was conducted according to the model used in the "Cold War" years in ther intervention in the Dominican Republic. Now, however, this course is even more dangerous. We can see its results not only in Grenada, but also in the Middle East, Lebanon, and Central America. The deployment of new U.S. missiles in Western Europe is a result of this course. This is, namely, the old policy "from the position of strength," and this is what we call "cave anticommunism."

Concretely, in the Caribbean the tactics of the Reagan administration are bribery, corruption, division, and rule. They use different means -- for instance, the funds of the so-called Caribbean initiative. Under this pretext they conduct various bilateral negotiations and form a group of states in this region which are obedient to the United States. Following the intervention in Grenada, the U.S. aggressive policy represents a great danger for Nicaragua and El Salvador. Therefore, it is particularly important to mobilize world opinion against this policy, all the more so because Reagan became very self-confident after Grenada. Simultaneously, chauvinism was revived in some U.S. circles and, therefore, I think that we must firmly oppose Reagan's aggressive policy, as the Soviet Government did recently.

Stratiev: The line pursued by the USSR and the socialist countries is opposite to the aggressive actions of the U.S. Aministration. How do you evaluate their policy?

Jagan: Our position is that close relations with the socialist countries have always had an essential role in the struggle of oppressed peoples against imperialism and for national liberation. The English-speaking countries of the Caribbean have a tendency to maintain a position of "equal distance" from the developed capitalist countries and from the socialist countries. However, I think that many people have already seen and understood the practical assistance rendered by the USSR and the socialist countries. The significance of this assistance is evident in Cuba's development and the development of Grenada until the intervention. Grenada, assisted by Cuba and the other socialist countries, made visible progress at a period when the economic and social situation of other Caribbean countries was deteriorating. For example, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development published data on Grenada's economic growth, and TIME magazine carried a report from the island describing the enthusiasm of the people, as well as the selfless and honest leadership before the intervention and the way in which it solved various social problems. On the basis of these examples people began to reevaluate the role of Cuba and the USSR in developing the Caribbean countries. In this sense, we can speak of a new development on an ideological level.

Stratiev: What tasks in the foreign policy area is the PPP attempting to solve at present?

Jagan: We are now viewing our role in searching for a political solution to the economic and social problems faced by Guyana. Our party proposed forming a government of the National Patriotic Front on the basis of a program which emphasizes democracy, anti-imperialism, and socialist orientation. For years we have been working patiently to strengthen our party organizations and build a unity of the workers' class and the racial (ethnic) minorities. The Reagan administration constantly pressures the government to return the country to dependent capitalism, while we insist on marching forward toward a socialist orientation. This is our task for the next elections, which will take place in 1985.

Now the country needs a government with an exceptionally broad social basis, which can represent the interests of the people's masses. Thus, the directions of our activity are included in the slogan of our party's last congress: "To defend the masses, to build the party up, and to construct the new future!"

ENVOY SEES TIES WITH USSR GROWING STRONGER

For Soviet reportage on the comments of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to the USSR Phillip Nathaniel Chan on the occasion of the Guyana national holiday, including his remarks on relations with the Soviet Union, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 28 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

REMAINING INTERIM GOVERNMENT CABINET POST FILLED

FL281216 Hilversum International Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Feb 84

[Text] The interim government in Suriname, which was installed 3 weeks ago, is now complete. The remaining post of public health minister will be taken by Dr (Van Traip). His candidacy was supported by the Surinamese business community.

The cabinet led by Prime Minister Udenhout consists of nine members -- five appointed by the military leadership, two by the trade union, and two by the business community.

ADVISORY GROUP WARNS OF APPROACHING CRISIS

PM281259 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 16 Feb 84 p 6

[ANP report: "Advisory Group Alarmed over Surinamese Economy"]

[Text] Paramaribo/The Hague -- Suriname is approaching a national crisis situation with regard to its foreign currency holdings. Within 3 or 4 months the Surinamese Government must therefore try to arrange loans with the IMF and the international banking system.

This warning is contained in a secret report completed 25 January by an economic advisory group led by Transport, Trade, and Industry Minister Fong Poen. The report states that as a result of the suspension of Netherlands development aid and falling income from bauxite, the balance of payments deficit has led to "by Surinamese standards, an alarming loss of foreign currency worth 200 million Surinamese guilders."

The report, which will serve as a basis for the Udenhout government's economic policy, advises that within 3 to 4 months loans must be arranged with the IMF and with banks. It is well known that the Alibux government which recently resigned approached the IMF for a loan while in office. One of the IMF conditions for a loan was the reduction of the government budget deficit. The tax increases which resulted from this led to strikes among bauxite workers.

In order to emerge from the problems, the report recommends a reduction in tariffs on bauxite and bauxite products in order to stimulate exports. Export duties on timber should also be lifted and other export products should be subsidized -- in the field of energy costs, for example.

As far as imports are concerned, it is proposed that they be limited to raw materials, basic necessities, machine parts, and medicines. The import of luxury items must be drastically cut, possibly through the introduction of an import ban.

It is also clear from the report that in the negotiations at the end of last year the IMF proposed that Suriname devalue the guilder by 30 percent. However, the advisory group said that it sees no clear reason for such a drastic measure. Other IMF advice, such as a partial increase in taxation and cuts in government spending, has been accepted. The group has recommended a 10-percent tax on airline tickets in particular.

In the area of cuts in government spending the advisory group recommends the closure or merging of ministries, the closure of diplomatic missions, and a freeze on promotions for public servants.